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WEATHER

Max: 31°C
Min: 24°C
Rainfall: Nil

ASTROGUIDE

Hevilambi: Thai 24
Tithi: Shashti/ Sapthami
Star: Chithirai/ Swathi
Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm
Yamagandam: 9 am to 10.30 am
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.55 am
Zohar: 1.00 pm
Asar: 4.00 pm
Maghrib: 6.16 pm
Isha: 7.45 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.12 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.35 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 11.39 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 11.41 AM

Rogue jumbo kills one more before being subdued

Krishnagiri: The district forest officials successfully tranquillised the much-feared rogue elephant, but the delay in operation has claimed one more life. On Monday, relatives recovered the dead body of K. Devan who ventured out of his house on Sunday night despite a warning by the forest staff. ■ **P5**

Russia reminded of N-arsenal deal

Washington: The United States, which just unveiled a new aggressive nuclear strategy, has met the limits set on its arsenal under the New START Treaty, which enters a new phaset on Monday, and reminded Russia to uphold its commitments.The strategic arms reduction treaty was signed by Washington and Moscow in 2010, and took effect in February 2011.■ **P10**

COUNTER POINT

Now, they are forcing people to watch the movie!

Market report

GOLD 24 ct (1 gm): ₹3,045.00
22 ct (1 gm): ₹2,896.00

SILVER Bar (1 Kg): ₹38,730.00

INDICES Sensex 34,757.16 pts
Nifty 10,666.55 pts

EXCHANGE US\$: ₹64.07 Euro: 79.72

■ Better to sell pakodas than to beg, says BJP prez Amit Shah tears into Cong in Parliament debut speech

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 5

The BJP and the Congress locked horns in Rajya Sabha on Monday while participating in a Motion of Thanks on the President's address to the joint sitting of Parliament.

Making his maiden speech, Amit Shah, BJP president and now a member of the Upper House, ripped into the Congress for its criticism of the government's economic policies, especially former finance minister P. Chidambaram's contemptuous dismissal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent claim that even selling pakodas is an instance of job-creation.

"Chidambaram compared pakoda-selling with begging. Those selling pakodas are self-employed. Can you compare them with beggars? It is better for a youth to earn living selling pakodas instead of being unemployed. Making pakodas is not shameful, what is shameful is comparing such a person with a beggar," Mr Shah said, pointing out that a "chaiwala's (tea-seller's) son has become the Prime Minister today."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was pre-



BJP President Amit Shah speaks in the Rajya Sabha in New Delhi on Monday.

PTI / TV grab

sent in Rajya Sabha and sat next to Mr Shah as the BJP chief, initiating the discussion, spoke for over an hour, and told Opposition MPs who interrupted him, "Well, you will have to listen to me for the next six years."

Last month the PM had said that his government had emphasised self-employment and job creation, for which loans had been disbursed, and that selling pakodas, too, is a job. To this, Mr Chidambaram had said: "By that logic, even begging is a job. Let's count poor or disabled persons who are forced to beg for a living as 'employed' people."

■ **P7**

Karnataka CM hits back at PM Modi

Bengaluru, Feb. 5: Hitting back at Narendra Modi forhis all-out attack on his Congress government, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday accused him of telling a "tissue of lies" and said he was "morally not fit" to be prime minister?"

"He did not speak as prime minister. He has uttered a tissue of lies and made baseless and irresponsible allegations,"

Siddaramaiah said in an angry rebuttal to a litany of charges by Modi at a BJP rally here on Monday.

He said the "countdown has begun for Narendra Modi," citing the results of Rajasthan by-polls in which the ruling BJP faced an embarrassing defeat at the hands of the Congress which won two Lok Sabha seats and one assembly segment. — **PTI** ■ **P7**

School HM stabbed by student in critical condition

K.SENTHIL NATHAN | DC
VELLORE, FEB. 5

In a shocking incident, the headmaster of a government-assisted higher secondary school in Tirupattur in Vellore district is battling for his life after one of a five-member group of students, angered by his strong chiding, stabbed him with a knife on Monday.

Police said the headmaster Mr Babu of Ramakrishnan Higher Secondary school has been coming down on the plus-1 class students in particular in the past one week, in a bid to motivate them to prepare for the coming exams seriously. ■ **P6**



Babu

SANJIB KR BARUAH | DC
NEW DELHI, FEB. 5

With an obvious eye on scaling up the already-explosive border situation, Pakistan has started using heavier guns, including 120mm guns, whose indirect fire and parabolic trajectory causes the maximum damage.

Sunday's shelling with such guns at Bhimber Gali in Rajouri hit a post of a Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JKLI) unit that was manning a crew-served weapon, killing four Indian soldiers, including a 22-year-old Army captain. On Monday, the Army vice-chief, Lt. Gen. Sarath Chand, warned Pakistan: "We will continue with our process of giving a befitting reply ... (Our

action will speak for itself."

Pakistan's resorting to heavy-calibre guns, in place of LMGs and smaller weapons, usually draws an equal response from the Indian side, which is forced to use equal calibre guns in a tit-for-tat response.

A crew-served weapon is one that is manned by more than one person, like an LMG, where one person keeps on pulling the trigger while another keeps on feeding the ammunition rounds.

JKLI soldiers are drawn from among locals in Jammu and Kashmir and just a little over half of its fighting men are Muslims, while the other half comprises Hindus, Sikhs and Ladakhi Buddhists.

Will give befitting reply to death of 4 in shelling: Indian Army

New Delhi, Feb. 5: The Army on Monday clearly indicated it would take retaliatory action against the killing of four army men in heavy shelling by Pakistani forces along the LoC in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, saying that its action would speak for itself.

Vice chief Lt Gen Sarath Chand said the Army has been responding appropriately to Pakistan shelling, asserting thatIndia will continue to give a "befitting reply" to such acts."That (retaliation) goes without saying, I think I don't have to say that. (Our) action will speak for itself," he said when asked about the killing of a Captain and three other Army men in the Rajouri sector. — **PTI**

SC stays Madras HC ban on sand mining

J. VENKATESAN | DC
NEW DELHI, FEB. 5

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed an order of the Madras high court directing stoppage of all sand quarrying activities in the state within six months and restraining the government from opening any new quarries.

A Bench of Justices Madan B. Lokur and Deepak Gupta stayed the high court order on a special leave petition filed by Tamil Nadu challenging the order. Senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi and counsel Yogesh Khanna appearing for the state submitted that the high court ought not to have passed the order without ascertaining the demand and supply position of sand in the state.

The high court had directed the State Government to periodically close all the quarries of granites and other minerals except that of "jelly" in order to maintain ecological balance. It also asked the state to establish



permanent check-posts within the state with the officers equipped sufficiently to curb and prevent the illegal mining and transportation of sand; the check post officers shall maintain the record of all the vehicles crossing by; the state shall also fix camera at the check posts and connect the same with a common server to ensure that illegal mining and transportation is curbed.

The state said the petition arose from a dispute raised by an importer of sand who was not permitted to transport imported silica sand. The importer had imported the sand against the state's law and regulations regarding the storage and transportation of imported sand within the state of Tamil

Nadu and the court passed directions.

The SLP said the stoppage of sand quarrying in would have a disastrous effect in as much as all the construction activities in the state will come to a complete standstill because of the absence of sand, which is a basic raw material. The high court has failed to appreciate that the river sand imported from other countries is costlier. The supply of river sand would considerably get reduced, as it would depend on the handling capacity of the port to stock and evacuate the river sand.

The four major ports in the state, namely Ennore, Kattupalli, Chennai and Tuticorin put together can only stock and evacuate about 2,000 truck loads on a daily basis whereas the requirement of the Chennai city alone is about 5,000 truck loads on a daily basis. The high court ought not to have passed these directions without ascertaining the demand and supply of sand. ■ **P4**

Churidar on idol sparks row in TN

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, FEB. 5

Though there are numerous alankarams for Goddess, which all bring out the divinity and evoke a sense of spontaneous veneration and appreciation among devotees, the one alankaram (decoration) that had shocked devotees is depicting Goddess Abhayambikai of the renowned Sri Mayuranathaswamy temple in Mayiladuthurai in Nagapattinam district in the state, in 'churidar'.

Devotees who visited the temple for darshan of the Goddess who is also by numerous names: Abhayapradhambikai, Abhayambikai, Anjаланayaki and Anjalai, on the auspicious 'Thai' Friday found to their disbelief that She was decorated in a churidar.

The temple priests Kalyanasundaram gurukul and his son Raja gurukul who had portrayed the goddess

which did not appear to be traditional, had evoked the ire of the devotees. They had even taken photos of the goddess and uploaded them on WhatsApp, it was said.

The furious devotees complained to the temple administration and following enquiry Aadheenam Ambalavana Pandara Sannidhi removed the two priests from service.

The presiding deity of the temple is a Suyambhu Lingam and is known as Mayuranathar as He was worshipped by His Consort Goddess Parvathy at that place in the form of Mayura (peahen). This ancient temple is among the six shrines on Cauvery river bank which are regarded equivalent to Kasi.

On the new moon falling in the Tamil month of Aippasi (November-December), the Hindus take a ceremonial bath in the temple tank as it is believed that this would cleanse them from the sins.

CUP OF JOY



India U-19 skipper Prithvi Shaw poses with the U-19 World Cup during the reception organised by the BCCI in Mumbai on Monday.

— **DC**

India concerned over Emergency in Maldives

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 5

Following the declaration of an emergency by beleaguered Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen following his refusal to comply with a Supreme Court order there to release political prisoners, India said late on Monday evening that "the prevailing political developments in Maldives and the resultant law and order situation is a matter of concern"

and promptly issued a travel advisory for all Indian nationals "to defer all non-essential travels to Male and other atolls until further notice".

New Delhi also asked all Indian nationals there "to exercise due caution in public and avoid public gatherings" and alerted them on the "need for heightened security awareness".

Government sources said New Delhi was "monitoring the situation closely".

● **Maldives President Abdulla Yameen has declared a state of emergency in the country for 15 days**

● **The President has refused to comply with a court order to release political prisoners, despite growing international pressure and concern**



The Maldives, with its exotic beaches, is a popular tourist destination for tourists globally including Indian tourists.

In a late-evening reaction,

the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "The prevailing political developments in Maldives and the resultant law and order situation is a matter of concern for the Government of India. Indian nationals are, therefore, advised to defer all non-essential travels to Male and other atolls until further notice.

Indian expatriates in Maldives are also alerted to the need for heightened security awareness, and urged to exercise due caution in public and avoid public gatherings."

Just last week, in a clear political message to tiny maritime neighbour the Maldives, India on Friday

had said that the Maldivian Government must "respect and abide" by Thursday night's order of the Supreme Court of Maldives on "release of all political prisoners" there. New Delhi had said this should be done in the "spirit of democracy and rule of law".

New Delhi also made it clear that the safety of Indian nationals in the Maldives should be ensured, adding that it was monitoring the situation.



BJP national secretary H. Raja on Monday demanded a CBI probe of the Madurai Meenakshi Temple fire

Tamil Nadu will face general elections anytime

—TTV Dhinakaran
MLA



Scattered showers forecast across the state

Under the influence of a weak low pressure area, light scattered showers are expected across TN, over the next couple of days. Numerical weather models indicate considerable weakening of the sub continental ridge, along with a change in wind directions allowing maritime moisture into the peninsula. Precipitation coverage is expected to increase over Wednesday with interiors holding higher chances. Cloudy weather conditions will persist along with seasonal average daytime/nighttime temperature through this week.

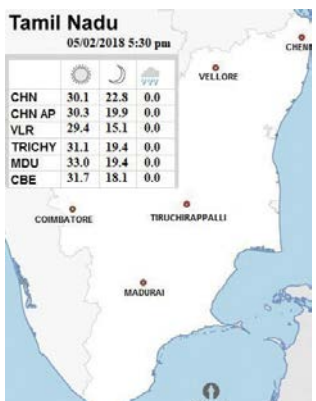
Chennai - Clear day becoming cloudier. High of about 29 degrees and a low of about 25 degrees.

Madurai - Scattered thunderstorms with a high of about 32 degrees and a low of about 24 degrees.

Coimbatore - Late evening mild to moderate showers expected over the industrial city. High of about 32 degrees and a low of about 22 degrees.

Tiruchy - Mostly cloudy with light showers along with a high of about 32 degrees.

Vellore - Showers developing towards the noon with a high of about 30 degrees.



24 HRS. HIGHLIGHTS
Uthagamandalam continues to remain coldest at 7.6 C!



DISTRIBUTION FROM JAYA'S BIRTH ANNIV

23,000 in city apply for two-wheeler subsidy

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, FEB. 5

With deadline for submitting 'Amma two-wheeler' scheme applications closing on Monday, regional transport offices and Chennai Corporation zonal offices witnessed a long queue on the last day.

According to a Chennai Corporation data, as many as 16,773 women have submitted their application forms to the zonal offices.

Under the scheme, working women would receive a maximum 50 per cent or ₹25,000 as government subsidy to buy two-wheelers of their wish. Right from the announcement of the scheme, women across the state were seen thronging regional transport offices to get their learner licences (LLR), which is a mandatory document for getting the subsidy.

However, they have to submit their driving licenses while availing the monetary benefit.

It is to be noted that the Greater Chennai Corporation had received only 6,187

Working women will receive a maximum 50 per cent or ₹25,000 as government subsidy

applications till February 2. However, on the last day, the number witnessed a steep rise. A total of 22,960 women have applied for Amma two-wheelers till Monday. Among the 15 zones in Chennai, Tondiarpet received the highest number of applications. 3,317 women in the zone have applied, whereas Manali received least number (416) of applications.

Government sources said that the applications received would be scrutinized from February 6.

"After the completion of due processes, the distribution of subsidies will commence on February 24, former CM Jayalalitha's birth anniversary," the source added.

It is also learnt that the government would distribute subsidies to 1 lakh beneficiaries on the first phase.

Vellore student smuggles red sanders to pay debts

Arrested 22-year-old paramedic student can't write exams

KIRAN REDDY
ALTHURUJ DC
TIRUPATI, FEB. 5

A paramedic student from Vellore in Tamil Nadu will miss his final exams slated for the end of this month as he has landed in police custody for alleged involvement in red sanders smuggling near here. S.Ajith Kumar (22), doing second year optometry at the Tiruvannamalai government medical college, was caught driving a Qualis SUV with six logs of red sanders at nearby Karakambadi road late Sunday night, police said.

A source in the special task force handling the scourge of red sanders smuggling in the Chittoor-Tirupati forests said one more man was nabbed along with Ajith Kumar and they offered no resistance when caught.

They said a smuggling kingpin named Prabhu had approached Ajith Kumar through a common friend and took him as an 'acting driver'. Ajith had been working as a part-time driver to sup-



port the family as his father passed away and his mother was just a homemaker. His younger brother worked as a mechanic at Vellore.

On Wednesday, Ajith got an assignment from Prabhu to drop some people near Tirupati. He completed the task and returned to Vellore, when Prabhu paid him ₹20,000 just for that single trip. "At that time, I was not aware I was being drafted into the red sanders smuggling gang. The damage was done before I could realise the seriousness of the episode. Being in debt, I just thought that

I could use the money earned to clear all my dues", Ajith told *Deccan Chronicle* while being taken to the office of the red sanders task force at Kapila Theertham here.

"I paid that ₹20,000 to a friend who had helped me with funds to pursue the optometry course after I got the seat. I still have another ₹30,000 in debt. I was one of the 75 students selected in one of the three government medical colleges in Tamil Nadu, so you can see I was a very serious student. But now I am shattered, uncertain about my future as my final exams

No Way Out

It would now take Ajith at least 60 days to come out on bail as the anti-smuggling laws are pretty stringent, the courts are firm and the task force cops are tough. By the time the 'seasoned' lawyers work out the bail, the lad's final exams would be over.

are due end of this month", he said fighting back tears.

After the easy money earned on his maiden drive, Ajith got a call again from 'friend' Prabhu on Sunday asking him to bring back the men he had dropped in Tirupati. After reaching Renigunta, he was told about the red sanders load to be collected. The Andhra Pradesh anti-red sanders smuggling task force police nabbed Ajith just after he completed loading the wood into the vehicle, while the smuggling kingpins fled on a motorcycle.

DC SPECIAL

MTC daily pass scheme likely to be scrapped

K. V. NAVYA | DC
CHENNAI, FEB. 5

In another serious jolt to bus passengers, who are fuming over the recent hike in bus fare, the top brass of the state transport department are now holding talks to permanently scrap the daily bus pass scheme of the Metropolitan Transportation Corporation (MTC), under which a passenger can travel unlimited number of times in a day (except AC and night) by paying ₹50.

"The move to scrap the daily bus passes was in the pipeline for over a year now. Increasing number of fraudulent practices while issuing the bus passes that resulted in huge income deficit coupled with the recent increase in bus fares has led to the move."

He further added that there were incidences when the staff sold fake bus passes and siphoned off the fees paid by passengers. "At times a passenger would sell his daily pass to another person for half the price and no action could be taken as we had no proof."

Another official on con-

MTC offers concessions under different categories

- Travel As You Please Ticket (TAYPT)
- Monthly Season Ticket (MST)
- Students Concession Ticket (SCT)
- Differently Aabled and Others

The passes can be bought at any of the 34 depots across the city. Through the sale of the passes, each depot earns nearly ₹60 lakh

dition of anonymity said, "The maximum fare for MTC now stands at ₹22 and if we issue tickets for ₹50, it would only result in more losses to the department. So, we can either "exorbitantly" increase the daily pass fare or scrap it, most officials considered the latter."

The average monthly usage of the daily bus pass is about 11.5 lakh. The scheme was "temporarily" stopped after the fare hike on January 20. The public has been urging the department to re-introduce the facility, ever since.

"It was particularly beneficial for those living in areas with low bus frequency as passengers get more choice with respect to the transit points. Also, there is no need to skip deluxe buses because of the higher fare for long distance travel," said M. Sivakumar, a regular commuter.

MTC sources said the State Transport Minister, M.R. Vijayabhaskar would make an official announcement on Tuesday regarding the revision of prices of weekly and monthly passes.



Kids enjoy a game of volleyball in Marina beach on Monday.

—DC

Encroachments removed, but traffic woes continue

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, FEB. 5

Residents of MGR Nagar are plagued by traffic snarls despite the recent encroachment removal drive conducted this weekend.

They rue that workmen have removed only 70 per

cent of the makeshift encroachments and paid no heed to the permanent structures blocking the road.

"A 14-member team including advocates and activists complained to the corporation about the encroachments, mainly by the unlicensed street

vendors using 'Namma Chennai' mobile app, following which the drive was conducted," said V. Gopalakrishnan, a resident.

He further added that vendors have encroached over 15 feet of the market road at KK Salai.

"Though they were

Drunk man tries to smoke on flight, detained

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, FEB. 5

An air passenger from Tamil Nadu who created a ruckus mid-air on board an international flight was detained by the airport police on his arrival at Chennai airport.

Ramesh (46) had demanded that he be allowed to smoke a cigarette aboard a flight and picked up an argument with the cabin crew and fellow passengers, police sources said.

Ramesh, from Tiruvannamalai district, was working as a driver in Qatar for the last two years and was returning home on a two-month vacation. He had started

● The driver from Tiruvannamalai was coming home from Qatar on vacation

from Doha on Sunday evening and was to reach the city by night.

However, on board the flight he had one too many drinks offered by the airlines and later placed a cigarette in his mouth and demanded the cabin crew to offer him a lighter.

"When the cabin crew attempted to pacify the passenger explaining security concerns, he had none of it and created a ruckus aboard the flight," an airport source said. The pilot was alerted, who

in turn passed on the message to the air traffic control in Chennai airport. Upon the flight's arrival at the City airport around 11 pm, the passenger was escorted by airport security and handed over to the airport police.

Since he was in an inebriated condition, police detained him and interrogated him after a few hours. Police sources said that the passenger regretted his actions and apologized for his behaviour.

Since the airlines management too did not choose to file a written complaint, Ramesh was let off with a severe warning on Monday morning, police said.

Recruitments made by ex-VCs to be probed

A.RAGU RAMAN | DC
CHENNAI, FEB. 5:

Following the arrest of Bharathiar University Vice-Chancellor A. Ganapathy, caught red-handed while accepting bribe on Saturday, the state government plans to launch a detailed probe into all recruitments made in the tenures of two previous vice-chancellors of the university.

Reacting to the arrest of Ganapathy, some educationists alleged that the previous two vice-chancellors of Bharathiar University, C. Swaminathan and G. James Pitchai were more corrupt than Mr Ganapathy.

"We are looking into all appointments made by past three vice-chancellors of Bharathiar University. The two previous vice-chancellors Swaminathan and James Pitchai are already under the scanner of DVAC," a government source said.

"A prima facie case is made out against Swaminathan and Ganapathy. DVAC is conducting a detailed enquiry against them," he said.

The Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption has registered a case against Swaminathan on complaints that he overlooked many eligible candidates for appointment and irregularities in managing funds for distance education.

"Swaminathan was the least qualified among the VC candidates when he was appointed as the VC of Bharathiar University. He was appointed mainly because of political influence," said N. Pasupathy, vice-president, Association of University Teachers.

"From buying furniture to awarding distance education centres, there was huge corruption took place during his tenure. There were also allegations that certificates were fabricated to recruit unqualified candidates," he added.

Mr Swaminathan completed his three-year term as the vice-chancellor of Bharathiar University in August 2012.

When the professors learnt that their name was also considered for the post of vice-chancellor of Periyar University they sent hundreds of telegrams to both the Governor's office and higher education department. "They ignored our telegrams and he got the second chance as vice-chancellor of Periyar University where he continued irregularities in appointments and corruption," Mr Pasupathy alleged.

Swaminathan's successor James Pitchai is also facing serious allegations as DVAC found ₹11.25 crore worth disproportionate assets from him. It has registered a case against James Pitchai. An audit report of the university also has accused him of misappropriation of funds to the tune of ₹5 crore.

Distance education director goes on leave

ANANTH MATHIVANAN | DC
COIMBATORE, FEB. 5

The distance education

director, Mr. Mathivanan of the Bharathiar University (BU) in Coimbatore who allegedly acted as the middleman for the vice chancellor (VC), failed to turn up duty on Monday and sought two days leave after he was called for an enquiry by DVAC sleuths regarding the graft case against the VC.

A source said, the DVAC sleuths enquired around 25 staff including distance education officer, the VC's office assistant and varsity staffs suspecting the director of distance education to be involved in corruption along with the VC, Prof A Ganapathy, in opening distance education centres across states and abroad.

"Just enquiring a few persons from the concerned department, the sleuths have collected vital information about the director Mathivanan on allegedly joining hands with VC," the source said.

As there is no registrar for BU, the registrar-in-charge Vanitha conducted a syndicate meeting on Monday to discuss about the further functioning of the Bharathiar University, following the arrest of the VC.

Out of 12 Syndicate members, seven did not take part in the meeting and the foundation day celebrations, which was supposed to be held at BU on Monday was postponed.

It is under these circumstances Mr. Mathivanan has sought leave.

A police source said, the DVAC sleuths have called distance education director Mathivanan to appear for an enquiry.

"If he fails to come, he will be summoned; we suspect he is moving court for anticipatory bail," added the official.

84 candidates okayed by Ganapathy in spot

DC CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE, FEB. 5

Sleuths of the DVAC also suspect the Bharathiar University (BU) vice-chancellor (VC), Prof Ganapathy had allegedly made 62 appointments on receiving huge cash and they plan to enquire the 62 candidates out of 84 in the first phase.

Members of the BU teaching staffs association also urged to look into the entire appointments, apart from teaching recruitment made by the VC, including promotions of assistant professors, transfers, and appointing syndicate members. They have also demanded an enquiry commission to probe the case led by a High Court judge and to cancel the appointments made by the VC Prof. Ganapathy until the entire investigations got over.

Apart from the VC the DVAC sleuths have also lodged complaint against three including Ms Swarnalatha, the wife of the VC, under IPC section 201, who allegedly attempted to destroy evidence during the DVAC raid at their home by allegedly dumping 28 chemically-treated currency notes in a toilet and allegedly hiding 22 in her inner garments.

The BU distance education director Mathivanan and Professor Dharmaraj, department of Chemistry were included for aiding the VC, sources said.

Prof Ganapathy and Prof Dharmaraj were grilled for ten hours, and then lodged in the Coimbatore Central prison. The DVAC sleuths are involved in preparing a detailed list of candidates who were recruited by the VC Ganapathy within the last two years including the SC and ST quota appointments made by him.

SWAMINATHAN WAS THE LEAST QUALIFIED AMONG THE CANDIDATES WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED AS THE VC OF BHARATHIAR UNIVERSITY.

— N. PASUPATHY, VICE-PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS



DMK working president MK Stalin said that corrupt persons would be sent to prison once DMK comes back to power

PM Modi has implemented GST that Congress failed in its tenure
— Tamilisai Soundararajan
BJP leader



SHORT TAKES

Cop suspended for taking bribe from truck drivers

Chennai: A police constable has been placed under suspension after a video of him collecting bribe amount from truck drivers passing through a traffic signal near Island grounds went viral in social networking site.

The suspended policeman, Sathyanarayana is attached to the law and order wing of the Flower Bazaar police station. A video of him collecting bribe amount from truck drivers lined up on Muthusamy awaiting their entry into the Chennai port went viral on Sunday. Police sources said that the video was shot on Thursday night. According to police sources, it is a common practice for policemen to collect ₹20 from each truck drivers to use the city roads. Sathyanarayana happened to be the unlucky policeman who was caught on camera doing the same.

The video went viral in WhatsApp, Facebook and other social media and was brought to the attention of the top echelons of the City police. After learning of the video, city police commissioner A.K. Viswanathan placed the head constable under suspension, a top police officer said.

Cops deny violating any provisions of NHRC
State to compensate van driver for custodial torture

A. ARUL PALANI | DC CHENNAI, FEB. 5

State Human Rights Commission has directed the state government to pay a compensation of ₹ 75,000 to a van driver, a victim of custodial torture.

Three police personnel including a woman SI had tortured the driver after a girl eloped with her lover in Sivagangai district nine years ago.

In the petition, driver, A. Velmurugan of Satharasankottai, Sivagangai district, submitted that K. Rasiya of Tiruvallur district and S. Murugan of Ilayangudi were in love for two years.

They ran away from the village and got married. Murugan contacted Velmurugan and informed him that he was staying along with Rasiya in

Velmurugan was forced to stay half-naked, assaulted continuously, despite revealing information about the duo who had run away and got married

Tirupur.

On April 17, 2009, he was taken to Ilayangudi police station, for inquiry. The police attacked him repeatedly. After forcing him to remain half naked sub inspector Geethalakshmi attacked him on his buttocks with palmyra tree plank. Even after informing them about whereabouts of Murugan, they continued to attack him.

On learning about Velmurugan being admitted to government hospital, the cops rushed to hospital and threatened to discharge him from the hospital. Next day, he was admitted to Government General Hospital, Sivagangai. As complaints sent to senior police officers evoked no response, Velmurugan filed the petition seeking action against trio.

In its reply, the police personnel denied the allegations. Velmurugan was questioned in connection with missing of Rasiya. As he was facing arrest in the case, he filed this false complaint against them. They said they had not violated any provisions of NHRC and sought to dismiss the complaint.

On completion of trial, SHRC member D. Jayac-

handran said the duty doctor had confirmed that Velmurugan was assaulted by two male and a woman police personnel.

On April 21, 2009, Rasiya and Murugan appeared before the judicial magistrate, Ilayangudi.

The member held that police personnel had tortured Velmurugan. This was a gruesome act and a worst example of cruelty and lawlessness amounting to violation of right to life of the victim.

The member said since the victim suffered the humiliation at the hands of the police, which amounts to violation of his right, personal, liberty and dignity, he is entitled to get compensation of ₹75,000. State shall recover ₹25,000 each from the police.

SELFIE COSTS
NRI HIS LIFE

Thanjavur: Taking a selfie has tragically cost the life of an NRI from the US at Anaikarai near Kumbakonam in Thanjavur district on Sunday.

Naveen (31), son of Venkatesan of Anna Nagar in Chennai had come to Anaikarai along with his brother Praveen and their parents on Saturday to offer worship at a temple there. Police said Naveen had stayed in the tourist bungalow for the night.

The next morning (Sunday) he took his three-year-old son Aniruddh to the bathing ghat. When he then tried to take a selfie of himself and his son by standing in the revetment wall, he slipped and fell into the river. In an instinctive response to save his son, Naveen flung his child to safety of the sands of the bathing ghat. On hearing the boy's cries, people nearby rushed to the spot and saved the child.

—DC

Three arrested for bike-racing in city

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 5

Three persons including a teenage college student were arrested by the city police on Sunday night for indulging in bike racing and over-speeding on city roads, in a manner that endangers the lives of the public.

Of the arrested trio, one of them works in a sports bike showroom in Arumbakkam, police said.

On Sunday night, a team headed by Vepery inspector was on vehicle check duty at EVR Periyar road-Ritherdon road junction when they intercepted three youngsters, who were speeding on their motorbikes.

On interrogation, it was found that the trio was on their way to an illegal drag racing meet near the Chennai Port Trust.

The three of them- R Sanjay (24) of New Secretariat colony in Arumbakkam, A Muhammed Thaheem (19) of Aminjikarai and S Vignesh (21) of Erukanchery were detained for further investigations.

Muhammed and Vignesh are college stu-

On interrogation, it has emerged the trio were on their way to an illegal drag racing meet near Chennai Port Trust

dents while Sanjay works in a bike showroom in Arumbakkam, police said. All three of them were arrested and remanded to judicial custody. Their motorbikes were seized by the cops.

City police officers said they have taken a tough stance towards youngsters over speeding and indulging in a bike racing and more such arrests are to follow in the coming days.

In an embarrassment to the police, a month ago, two videos of youngsters on bikes dragging metal police barricades on city roads for several hundred meters letting sparks fly by went viral in the internet. The videos posed tough questions on enforcement by the city police to rein in on these bikers.



FOREIGN CURRENCY
WORTH ₹8 LAKH SEIZED

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 5

Customs officials on Monday seized foreign currency worth ₹8 lakh from two passengers who attempted to smuggle them. According to officials, 50,000 Saudi Riyals were seized from passengers Shahul Hameed (36) and Sikkandar Badhusha (43). Both hail from Ramanathapuram and

were bound to Colombo by a Spicejet flight. They were both detained before departure on suspicion and personal search yielded 25,000 Riyals from each of them. The currency valued at ₹8 lakh in total were in denominations of 500 and wrapped with black adhesive tape and concealed in their rectum, officials said. The currency was seized under the customs Act.

Ban loudspeakers in public places, says high court

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 5

In order to curb the menace of noise pollution in public/other places, the Madras high court has said the use of cone speakers/loudspeakers in public places shall be banned/restricted in the interest of public and more particularly, the children and aged persons. "The state shall instruct all authorities to take appropriate action against users of cone speakers/loudspeakers in public places and/or in religious places in violation of the provisions of the noise pollution (regulation and control) rules, 2000, and ensure that the usage of cone speakers are curtailed and the usage of any other sound systems would be permitted within the permitted parameters," said Justice R.Mahadevan.

Recording the statement made by parish priest of Infant Jesus shrine,



R.K.Puram, Tiruchirappalli, agreeing to remove the cone speakers and also undertaking to conduct prayers in a peaceful manner without causing any noise pollution, the judge disposed of a petition from Ashtalakshmi Nagar, Ashtalakshmi Nagar Extension and R.K.Nagar Kudiyiruppor Nala Sangam, which sought a direction to take appropriate action against the parish priest of Infant Jesus shrine, which was creating noise pollution by using prohibited horn type loudspeakers without getting any permission or license.

The awareness campaigns shall be conducted about the ill-effects of cone speakers/loudspeakers in order to curb the menace of noise pollution. Any violation in complying with the provisions of the Noise pollution (regulation and control) rules be taken note of by the authorities concerned and action be initiated against the persons concerned in accordance with law and the instruments used for such violation be seized and confiscated immediately.

"Those, who are conducting the public meetings, shall also scrupulously follow the directions issued in this order, while using the sound system. The public secretary shall communicate this order to all the district collectors, who in turn, shall intimate the same to all the subordinate officers for compliance forthwith", the judge added and posted the matter after three months for reporting compliance.

Railway tribunals negating beneficial legislation?



Sanjay Pinto



JUSTICE FOR ALL

It took 19 years, several tragic rail accidents and a nudge from the Bombay and Delhi High Courts for the Railway Accidents & Untoward Incidents (Compensation) Rules, 2016, last amended in 1997, to double the quantum of compensation for death or serious amputation, from Rs 4 to 8 lakh rupees to the dependents or families of victims. In 1994, an amendment was also made to the Railways Act, 1989, with the insertion of Section 124 A, which made it obligatory on the part of the railway administration to cough up compensation, whether or not there is "any wrongful act, neglect or default" on its part. There were only 5 exceptions to this provision in clauses a) to e), such as suicide, criminal act, intoxication, insanity or natural causes, disease or surgical treatment.

The Supreme Court in Jameela Vs Union of India had clearly held that when the railway administration does not prove any of the five exceptions to Section 124A on the cause of death warranting compensation, the presumption must be an accident. Some of these exceptions cry out for further amendments, for instance, in the wake of Section 115 of the Mental Health Care Act, 2017, which decriminalised suicide, punishable earlier under Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code.

What is disturbing is that beneficial legislation is being stymied, if a trend of Railway Claims Tribunals dismissing applications for compensation following 'untoward incidents', ignoring settled principles of

law, is anything to go by. There are a slew of cases in which these tribunals, across the country, have rejected claims on the ground that the deceased were not 'bonafide passengers' merely because the tickets could not be found at the scene of the accident. In gruesome accidents when human bodies itself are mutilated beyond recognition, isn't the probability of a ticket getting torn or shredded or blown away from the railway track in the breeze quite high?

Dead passengers tell no tales. The Madras High Court in Sivaprabakaran Vs Union of India clearly ruled that the "non-production of the railway ticket is not fatal to the case of the claimant." The Madhya Pradesh High Court in Union of India Vs Satish Patidar had held that "such burden of proof is impossible to be discharged by the dependents who can have no means of knowledge whether the deceased before boarding the train had purchased the valid ticket. It is likely that such a deceased passenger has a valid ticket but the same was lost in the accident. To place the onus of proof on the dependents would amount to denial of the benefit of legislation to them for reasons beyond their control."

Only a "passenger", defined as "a person travelling with a valid pass or ticket" under Section 2(29) of the Railways Act is entitled to

compensation. And 'untoward incident' covered under Section 123 (c) includes "accidental falling of any passenger from a train carrying passengers." Tribunals not only overlook decisions of High Courts and the Supreme Court on the burden of proof of ticketless travel being on the railways, but also FIRs, Post-Mortem and Inquest Reports filed by their own authorities. The Andhra High Court in Union of India Vs K. Parvathamma had ruled that "the contents of the F.I.R and inquest report are sufficient to establish that the deceased died in an untoward incident."

In Maurice Lai Vs Union of India, the Chennai Bench of the Railway Claims Tribunal rejected a claim by grieving parents of a 14-year-old boy who accidentally fell from a moving suburban train and sustained fatal injuries. The tribunal opined that the ill fated journey of less than 2 kilometres between Kodambakkam and Nungambakkam Railway Stations would have been "fleeting brief" for an untoward incident to have taken place! Really? Can't even a single misstep in a split second prove fatal? Is it so unlikely that a standee in a suburban train which has no doors would fall out? The worst nightmare for any parent would be burying their own children. For Maurice Lai it turned out to be a horrific reality. How many claimants have the resources to file appeals in High Courts and the Supreme Court? The Railways cannot give this grieving father his son back. But should the country's largest employer grudge his statutory compensation? When I last checked, we were still a Welfare State.

(The writer is an advocate at the Madras High Court, columnist & author)

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Kancheepuram collector P. Ponnaiah on Monday warned action against people instigating school students to participate in protests



SHORT TAKES

After cataract surgery, CM advised to take rest

Chennai: Chief Minister, Edappadi.K.Palaniswami underwent a cataract surgery at a private hospital in the city, supervised by a government eye specialist on Monday. He was discharged hours after the surgery and his health is fine. He has been advised to take rest for a couple of days, sources said. However, he was seen working from home on Monday as he issued a statement announcing compensation to the kin of 14 electrocuted Sources said he is likely to hold a review meeting on Wednesday. It may be noted that DMK working president, M.K. Stalin also underwent a cataract surgery in July, last year.

Prince of Arcot edu and charitable trust established

Chennai: The Prince of Arcot Educational and Charitable Trust has been established and registered, under the Indian Trust Act, according to press release. The trust aims to promote education of all types and to establish, take over, adopt, support, manage, fund and run educational, professional, medical and technical Institutions for the benefit of all persons irrespective of caste, creed, religion or sex, and especially the minority communities and weaker sections. The Trust will provide financial assistance to deserving scholars and to award scholarships and prizes, and help those who desire to take up higher studies abroad and will also give charitable assistance to deserving persons.

7,000 run for a cause

Chennai: The second edition of Olympia CMR RUN, organised by Rotary club of Chennai Upscale (RCCU), was run on Sunday. The Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology was painted yellow for the event even as enthusiastic runners in yellow T-shirts were raring to go at 6 am. Over 7,000 runners took in the run for a cause. The mantra for the event was "It's not how well you run... It's why you run". This was very evident from the eclectic mix of participants - young, old and even kids. Gearing up for a great run was done with a team of physiotherapists helping the participants with stretching and a Zumba dance. The proceeds of this fundraiser will go to brighten the lives of many deprived children with the light of education. The event's title sponsor was the Olympia Group of builders.



Japanese Grant aid for medi equipment project signed

Chennai: The signing ceremony for the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Project (GGP) took place on Monday at the residence of the Consul General of Japan at Chennai. The project deals with the installation of medical equipment for treatment of eye diseases in rural underserved areas of nine districts in Telangana. Seiji Baba, consul general of Japan at Chennai and representative of Pushpagiri Vitreo Retina Institute signed the Grant contract. Under the project, the organisation installs medical equipment that allows more complicated and advanced surgical operations.

ON FAST TRACK



The construction of Pallavaram flyover has gained pace but the area witnesses heavy traffic snarls during peak hours. — DC

AIADMK leader raises Neet issue in Rajya Sabha

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 5

Statewide protests seeking exemption from the national eligibility cum entrance test (Neet) continued for the fifth consecutive day across the state.

Functionaries of DMK and the Dravidar Kazhagam staged protests in Thiruvavur

and Dharmapuri districts seeking exemption.

They raised slogans protesting against the centre and demanded an immediate solution for the issue. Meanwhile AIADMK leader A. Navaeethkrishnana raised the issue in the Rajya Sabha.

He said the government should allow the states to amend law in the concur-

rent list and should not sit over the amendments passed by Assemblies for long.

Giving an example, he said Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a bill unanimously to give exemption to students from National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Neet) but it is been pending with Central government for approval.



Opposition leader M.K. Stalin interacts with women in Kishnagiri on Monday. — DC

Quarrying ban: Lorry owners to meet CM

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 5

In the wake of Supreme Court staying the order of Madras high Court order banning the quarrying of sand in the state, lorry owners in the state were left shocked and announced that they would soon meet Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

Responding to the issue, law minister C.V. Shanmugham said that the issue would be taken up with the state for suitable necessary action. Admitting that the construction and realty sector will be hit, the law minister said that the state will hold consultations with the legal experts on the issue to ensure that the sand is available for the public to construct houses and also look into others options left before the state.

"We have asked for time to meet the Chief Minister at the earliest and submit a memorandum to protect the business of sand lorry owners. Besides the quarrying issues, the lorry owners are also affected because of the GST and toll prices," Sukumar, of Tamil Nadu Lorry Owners Association told reporters. The lorry owners are also affected because of the recently introduced e-billing system as the drivers are not used to the new technology, he said.

It may be noted that the sand lorry owners had earlier demanded the state to import quality sand from abroad and regulate the manufacture of M-sand to meet the demand from realty sector.

According to official sources, the state is likely to brainstorm the issue in a couple of days as availability of sand had also affected the infrastructure projects in the state. "We agree that the river and ecology has to be balanced and are in the process of exploring new avenues", an informed government official said.

Shops in Madurai temple violate Act

J.V. SIVA PRASANNA KUMAR | DC CHENNAI, FEB. 5

The renowned Meenakshi temple, Madurai, has raised the crucial issue of temple safety and how every available space within the temple has been commercialised blatantly violating the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act of 1959.

Also, preliminary enquiry reveals that the Friday night's inferno could have been triggered by camphor that was lit for dhisti (to ward off evil eye) by a shopkeeper.

This pleasant and strong aromatic waxy, flammable, white solid was set on fire in front of a shop inside the temple at about 10 pm after the temple was closed for darshan for the day at 9.45 pm on Friday.

"This flames from the camphor could have spread to the inflammable substance nearby and later could have triggered an electrical fire," a source in HR & CE said on Monday.

Also, the fire mishap has raised several lapses in administration, it was pointed out. The temple is normally closed for darshan at 9.45 pm and so do the shops thereafter. The night watchman who takes up the charge has to verify whether all the devotees, temple staff and shop keepers have left the temple and record it in a register.

It is not known whether this was done on Friday night when the shopkeeper lighted the camphor at 10 pm and left the premises even before it got extinguished, say sources.

Sadly, when the fire spread in the 'mini' shopping centre inside the 7,000 sq ft Vasantharayar mandapam of the renowned Sri Meenakshi Sundareswar temple, where nearly 150 shops had almost occupied every available space, it was realised that the fire tender stationed at the temple did not have water in it. "The

More areas from Kanchi, Tiruvallur, Vellore to be added

Housing dept open to public opinion on CMA expansion

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 5

With the state government issuing a government order notifying the expansion of Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA), the Tamil Nadu Housing and Urban Development Department is all set to open its window to receive suggestions from the public.

According to the recent government order, after receiving expansion proposal from the CMDA member secretary, the government has decided to declare intention to include additional areas from Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and Vellore districts.

However, the government order, according to official sources in the housing department, is initial stride towards the seven-fold expansion of CMA that would come under the purview of Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA).

"We have already received resolutions from local bod-

ies that are to be annexed with CMA. The resolutions are pre-requisite for the annexation to carry out," a departmental source said.

The official also added that the expansion process would be completed and final notification would be issued only after receiving suggestions from the public residing at those local bodies.

"By the government order, the district collectors of Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and Vellore are directed to publish the notification their respective district gazettes. The department will issue a separate seeking suggestion from the public soon," the official said.

With the ambitious expansion plan, which is aimed to ensure 'uniform' development in the region, the CMA is set to relegate Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and other metropolises in terms of area covered. If the plan goes well, Chennai would be the second largest metro-

BIGGER CHENNAI

- Land available in the extended area will have a master plan.
- New satellite towns, bus stands, road and rail connectivity to be established
- Forest areas, water bodies and agricultural areas to be protected.
- Uniformity in urban and infrastructure development.
- Diversification of urban population.

- The government should consider decentralisation of power and responsibility from headquarters.
- Establish zonal or regional level offices to ensure ease of doing business.
- Appoint more officials to staff crunch CMDA.
- Enable transparent reclassification ad regularization processes.



politan planning area in the country after National Capital Region (NCR).

It is noteworthy that the move shelved for over six years has been finally dusted off.

During the assembly session, Radhakrishnan announced that the Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA) would be expanded

to cover 8,878 sq km from its current 1,189 sq km. All of Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts, as well as Arakkonam taluk in Vellore district, would be part of the new CMA, the minister told in July 2017.

SULTAN FILES PETITION TO CLOSE SHOPS

DC CORRESPONDENT MADURAI, FEB. 5

A person from Muslim faith from Kanyakumari has filed a petition in the Madurai Bench of Madras high court seeking to issue direction to the commissioner of Hindu religious and charitable endowment department to shut down commercial shops constructed inside ancient temples including the Meenakshi Amman temple in Madurai.

Hence he requested the court to issue directions to the department not to modify the temple structure for commercial purpose and also to resort to the modified structure to its original state.

"I was born as a Muslim. I understand the sentiments, feelings and emotions of fellow Hindu brethren. Modifying the historical and culturally important superstructure purpose is unjustifiable," said Abul Kalam Azad Sulthan said in the petition adding that the recent fire in the Meenakshi Amman temple had left the devotees distraught.

He said this incident is one of the awakening examples of the drawback in commercialising the temple premises.

"For commercialising the temple premises, even the hundreds and thousands of years old superstructure are altered without considering the glory of culture, ancient history and tradition," he claimed.

Sulthan said that without following agamas and ancient style of construction, the commissioner of HR & CE department, and the executive officer of Meenakshi temple have altered the ancient building, putting additional structures and electrical equipment.

Temple administration can't be shifted to pvt organisations: OPS

DC CORRESPONDENT MADURAI, FEB. 5

Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam on Monday said that CBI investigation is not necessary for Meenakshi Amman temple fire accident.

Panneerselvam told this to reporters after inspecting the temple premises. Earlier in the morning, BJP national president H. Raja demanded a CBI inquiry into the incident. He also suspected criminal conspiracy behind the temple fire.

Tamil Maanila Congress leader G.K. Vasan also demanded thorough investigation in the incident.

Temple staff had to run to the temple tank to fetch water and attempted to douse the flames till the fire service personnel filled the tender with water and rushed to put out the raging flames. This could also have been the delay in extinguishing the fire," a senior official said on condition of anonymity.

Panneerselvam said if investigation proves that shops located inside the Veeravasantharayar Mandapam had caused the fire accident, then procedures would be followed to remove the shops from the temple.

He also clarified that it is not possible to shift the temple administration from Hindu religious and charitable endorsement department to private organisations due to this unfortunate incident. Temple safety committee will be formed in all temples to ensure such incidents don't occur in the future, he said.

When asked about the restoration of

Veeravasantharayar Mandapam, damaged in Friday night's fire, he said that restoration work would be carried out within next six months following Agama Vidhi.

Panneerselvam also appreciated district collector Veera Raghava Rao for his swift action and the fire and rescue service personnel for putting out the fire within short duration.

Earlier, cooperation minister Sellur K. Raju and revenue minister R.P. Udayakumar, collector Veera Raghava Rao and temple officials accompanied him when he inspected the accident place.

About 150 shops inside the mandapam and around it were allowed to operate contravening section 77 which prohibited, except in special cases, transfer of lands appurtenant to or adjoining religious institutions, notwithstanding anything contained in section 34, that no trustee of a religious institution shall lease or

mortgage with possession or grant a licence for the occupation of any space within or outside the prakarams, mantapams, courtyards or corridors of the religious institution. The temple which levied a monthly rent of ₹1,000 to ₹1,500 to each shop in the past had revised the sum to ₹6,000 to ₹7,000.

Expedite four-lanning of highways in Kanyakumari, says Ponnar

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 5

Union Minister of State for Finance and Shipping Pon Radhakrishnan has urged the national highways officials to expedite the four-lanning of highways in Kanyakumari and facilitate national connectivity soon.

The Minister who inspected the work in the district along with national highways officials, said the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has taken several steps to decentralise work and road projects.

Various orders like delegation of Powers to



Chief Engineer-Regional Officer (CE-RO) at MoRTH Regional Offices, Delegation of Power in Implementation of the Projects, Delegation of powers for Admini-

strative/ Financial Approval Periodic Renewal/ Improvement of riding quality Programme (PR/IRQP) under Maintenance and Repair (M&R) of NHs (Non-Plan) - First Phase, Procedure for Processing of Cases of Utility Shifting and Guidelines regarding procedures to be adopted for invitation of tenders and qualification of contractors for execution of Road and Bridge Works on National Highways and Centrally Financed Schemes-Modification in Procedures have been issued by the MoRTH. The Delegation of power across various lev-

els is also part of the Cabinet approved Bharatmala Pariyojana (BMP) Phase - I for development/upgradation of 34,800 km of National Highways (NHs) with an outlay of Rs 5,35,000 crore over a five year period i.e. from 2017-18 to 2021-22. For EPC projects, NHAI Board (Authority) has been authorized to appraise and approve the projects irrespective of cost. For all BOT (Toll) projects of NHAI Where no grant is required to be given to concessionaires, the Authority has been authorized to appraise and approve the projects irrespective of cost.



SCHOOL OPENING

Governor Banwarilal Purohit inaugurates RISHS international school at Mangadu in Chennai on Monday. — DC



Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami announced solatium to families of 14 people who died in various incidents

DECCAN CHRONICLE

TUESDAY | 6 FEBRUARY 2018 | CHENNAI

State

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Government should dismiss Bharathiyar University VC facing graft charges —S. Ramadoss PMK founder

SHORT TAKES

Plea directing state to recover loss due to strike dismissed

Chennai: The Madras high court has dismissed the petitions, which sought to direct the state government to take immediate steps to recover the losses incurred by the state due to the recent bus strike from the transport corporation employees.

The First Bench comprising Chief Justice Indira Banerjee and Justice Abdul Quddus dismissed the petitions filed by N.Janardhanan and M.Muthukumar, residents of Chennai. "Whether action should be taken against any employee or whether loss caused to an employer should be recovered from the employee are service matters in respect of which PIL cannot be entertained. The PIL is misconceived and dismissed", the bench added.

HC: Maintain status quo while chopping NH trees

Chennai: The Madras high court has directed the authorities in Villupuram and Cuddalore districts to maintain status quo in respect of cutting trees for the National Highway Development Project. Justice K.Ravichandrababu posted to February 9, further hearing of a petition filed by D.Stalin, a forest contractor. The judge said counsel for the petitioner submitted that the District Collector and District Forest Officer, Cuddalore were permitting the sub-collector, Cuddalore to cut and remove the living trees standing in the National Highways from Vikkaravandi to Pinalur-Sethiyathoiipu Section of NH45C, without following the earlier directions issued by this court dated October 12, 2017. It was the contention of the counsel for the petitioner that without proceeding to conduct public auction of the trees, after getting the value of those trees from the forest department, the sub-collector, Cuddalore has been permitted to remove those trees by the District collector and DFO.

Over 1.13 lakh candidates in 500 colleges take exam

56% engg students fail to clear maths exam

A.RAGU RAMAN | DC CHENNAI, FEB.5

Reflecting a sad state of school education in the state, over 56 per cent of engineering students who have appeared for engineering maths-1 exam in their first semester examinations have failed to clear the paper.

The office of the controller of examinations in Anna University declared the first semester results on Monday. More than 1.13 lakh students from over 500 engineering colleges appeared for the exam.

The engineering colleges were in for a surprise as the majority of the colleges recorded less than 50 per cent pass percentage due to the dip in the pass percentage in engineering maths subject.

Usually, the first year students find difficult to cope with engineering maths subject as it tests the application of maths concepts.

"Students who have studied the plus-1 subjects alone can clear the engineering maths easily. Those who studied based on blueprint and book back questions generally struggle in exams," said

Pass percentage of first semester

Subject	%
Engineering Mathematics -1	43.6%
Engineering Physics	52.7%
Engineering Chemistry	59%
Problem Solving and Python Programming	61.7%
Engineering Graphics	63.5%
Communicative English	80.5%

Revaluation of answer scripts down by 73%

Due to various changes implemented in the valuation process by the Controller of Examinations of Anna University, the number of revaluation applications for the odd semester exams (November/December 2017) is down by 73% compared to the previous semester exam.

In the previous exam (April/May 2017), we received 3,02,379 applications for revaluation and it was down to 2,21,597 this time. We have introduced a robust evaluation system in which we have provided detailed answer keys and scheme of valuation to the examiners, said G.V.Uma, controller of examinations, Anna University.

Jayaprakash A.Gandhi, educationist and career analyst.

Compared to last year, the number of students who have not cleared the exam has increased by 10 per cent this year.

"Due to the confusion over Neet, the engineering admissions were delayed by a month. Along with other reasons, the lesser time has also affected the students' preparation," he added.

He further said, "Anna University and engineering colleges need to start bridge courses for the first year students to help them

clear the maths paper."

Engineering professors pointed out that even in Anna University where the top rankers are studying 36 per cent students could not clear the exam this year.

"The plus-2 students are not trained to answer the application-oriented questions. Those students who are memorizing the concepts are struggling in the engineering maths paper," said B.Chidambara Rajan, principal of Valliammai Engineering College, Chennai.

He wanted more working days for the first year

students to prepare for the exams.

"Currently, students are appearing for exams after attending the classes for just 3 to 4 months. They need at least five to six months to prepare for the first-semester exam," he suggested.

Students are doing very well in the subjects which they are finding interesting. For example, students have scored well in the new subject called problem-solving and python programming. Students have recorded 61.7 per cent pass percentage in this subject.

CJ DECLINES TO HEAR PLEA AGAINST VAIRAMUTHU

Chennai: "I know very little Tamil", said Chief Justice Indira Banerjee while declining to hear a case relating to the article on Hindu deity 'Andal', written by popular Tamil writer, Vairamuthu, which was published in a Tamil daily.

When a plea filed by advocate M.Mohideen Ibrahim which sought to ban the article titled as "Tamizhai Andal", came up for hearing, Chief Justice Indira Banerjee said, "I know very little Tamil. I will post this matter before some other division bench".

Justice Abdul Quddus, second judge adorning the bench said, "I do not know much about Tamil literature. I gather the basic information about this issue through Wikipedia". —DC

HC reverses lower court's order on plea against Rajini

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 5

The Madras high court has set aside an order of a lower court, which rejected a plea to initiate defamation proceedings against Shivaji Rao Gaikwad alias Rajinikanth for his alleged defamatory statement against film financier S.Mukand Chand Bothra.

Allowing the petition filed by Bothra, Justice M.V.Muralidaran directed the VIII Metropolitan Magistrate, George Town, to follow the procedures under section 203 of Cr.Pc and pass appropriate orders within 8 weeks on an unannounced criminal complaint of 2015 filed by



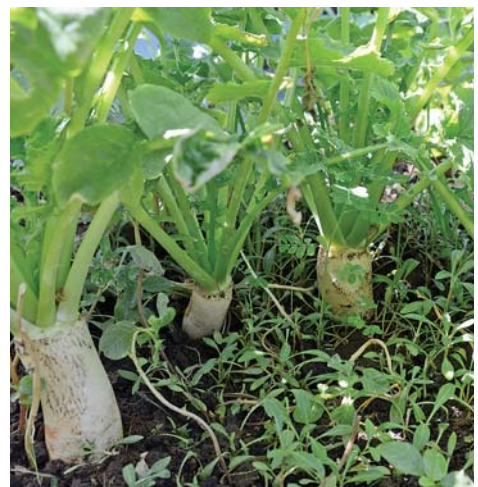
Bothra.

"The complainant is directed to give his fullest co-operation for early order to be passed by the magistrate. If the magistrate is taking cognizance of the complaint and issuance of any summons to the respondent (Rajinikanth), the appearance of the respondent is dispensed with except the hearings to be ordered by the mag-

istrate", the judge added.

In his petition, Bothra submitted that he had lent money to Kasthuri Raja, father of actor Dhanush, who is the son-in-law of Rajinikanth on the assurance that if he fails to repay the money, Rajinikanth would settle the same. However, he failed to repay the money. Therefore, he had filed a suit in 2015 against Kasthuri Raja and Rajinikanth. Rajinikanth had filed an application, in which he had alleged that the suit was filed only to extort money from him. Hence, he filed a complaint before the VIII MM, George Town. However, the magistrate dismissed it, he added.

SELF SUSTAINABILITY



A group of women from Self Help Groups (SHG) has developed a terrace garden at Annai Teresa Magalir Valagam in Nungambakkam. They cultivate 105 varieties of leafy vegetables in 15,000 square feet and there are 1,200 bamboo baskets containing organic manure, sand and red soil. The initiative, started by Praveen P. Nair, trains SHG women members for a period of 15 days and then deploys them at different districts across the state to act as resource persons in the long run. The initial yield including paruppu keera, pulicha keera, vendaya keera, ponnangani keera among others is able to fetch nearly ₹25,000 within one month of its operation.

—N. SAMPATH

Speak Out

Relay Velachery main road

Though after the digging of Velachery Main Road, some patchwork has been done from Vijaynagar bus depot to Guru Nanak college and relaying of the road has been done from old police station till the post office. However, the stretch from the post office till the Guru Nanak college is still in a dilapidated condition. All the vehicles, even the buses try to avoid these potholes denying any walking space for pedestrians. We request the concerned authorities to relay the roads without any further delay. Footpaths too may be made, at least one side of this road.

Kavitha Srikanth, Velachery

Tiruvanmiyur bus stand lacks facilities

The bus terminus at Tiruvanmiyur lacks basic amenities for passengers. There are no toilets, and seats also remain absent. Unhygienic food establishments are also functioning near the entrance with crows, dogs and cats inside them. There is no place for passengers to wait for buses. Passengers can be seen crowding the exit to enter the buses. Many minor accidents take place due to this. Now that the bus fares have been increased, authorities should also ensure basic facilities.

V.Chandrasekhar Besant Nagar

Clear Olympia bus stand of vehicles

The bus stop of Jawaharlal Nehru Road in front of Olympia Technology Park is often covered with numerous vehicles instead of buses. Many of the employees from Olympia Technology Park, students from TN Technical Training College and workers from the nearby industries of the area depend on the bus stop daily. However, the taxi stand in front of the bus stand is creating a huge block. Though passengers stand along the road, buses are stopped in the middle of the road. Adding to this, there are many vehicles being parked in the 'No parking area'.

The concerned authorities should take an initiation to control the block, especially at peak hours.

Darsana J Ekkatuthangal



Severely damaged footpath near the Tambaram Gandhi road junction irks pedestrians

Cry for basic civic needs

Despite vast development in leaps and bounds, Urupakkam lacks even basic facilities like roads, drainage, etc. The SMS Nagar off Priya Nagar III Part has no direct access to the Railway Station. Not a single road is in a good condition. The conservancy work has never taken place as one can find huge mounds of plastic wastes scattered over the concrete road near the Station and the road is ridden with pot holes making the pedestrians unable to walk. Rain water stagnates, people from western side have to swim to go to East Urupakkam near the Railway Station. Proper outlet has to be built to enable pedestrians walk hassle free. One can find heap of garbage without collecting is an eyesore. Mosquitoes menace and stray dog menace are a daily ordeals. Simply speaking the local body is a burden causing health hazard to the people rather than of any welfare to the citizens and it remains an absolute inaction in every field to make people suffer a lot in deluge. Water scarcity and power disruption occur every day. I would request the Government to look into the matter seriously and take action against the authorities and make the local body active for the welfare of the people.

S. Gopalan, Maraimalai Nagar

SPEAKOUT IS A WEEKLY COLUMN.

Letters to this page should be typed or written on one side of the paper. All letters, including those sent by email, should bear the name, address and phone number of the writer. We will not use complaints without these details. If you have a complaint against a vendor or a corporate, mail the letter with supporting documentary evidence, or bring the same to the DC office. speakout.chennai@deccanmail.com Letters must reach by Friday.

WILD JUMBO KILLS 1 MORE BEFORE BEING SUBDUED

DC CORRESPONDENT COIMBATORE, FEB. 5

The district forest officials successfully tranquilized the much-feared rogue elephant, but the delay in operation has claimed one more life.

On Monday, relatives recovered the dead body of K. Devan who ventured out of his house on Sunday night despite a warning by the forest staff.

Devan is the third victim killed by the single elephant creating havoc in villages surrounding Chinnar near Shoolagiri on the Chennai-Bengaluru national highway in Krishnagiri district.

The 70-year-old V. Rajappa of Bathirakottai village was the first victim and Muniraj of Oddaiyanoor village, the second.

On Monday, local villagers spotted the wild animal at Oddaiyanoor and called the forest staff. Prakash, wildlife veterinarian of Krishnagiri released the first two darts at around 11.20 am from a double barrelled dart gun used for the first time in the state.

One of the two darts punctured the hard skin of the elephant and injected the sedative into its body. Sources said the elephant was disturbed because of the onlookers who came to watch the operation, and moved into the forest from Oddaiyanoor to be found at Melumalai where it was

● A total of 5 tranquilizer shots had to be given to the tusker in order to bring it to a semi-conscious state so that it could be taken to the Cauvery wildlife sanctuary

tranquilized successfully with two more injections. A fourth injection was given to calm down the animals in a semi-conscious state, when it tried to charge at forest staff and others. Two earth moving machines were used to give support to the animal to walk till the ambulance parked on the Chennai-Bengaluru national highway.

The ambulance is a specially designed truck meant for transporting elephants during an emergency.

The captured elephant was transported to Biligundulu along the course of the Cauvery from where the river enters Tamil Nadu from neighboring Karnataka.

According to Forest department officials, the newly formed Cauvery North wildlife sanctuary, 150-km from Chinnar, will become the new home for the elephant that was relocated from the Rayakottai forest range.



M.M. Murugappan took charge as executive chairman of the Murugappa Group on Monday

DECCAN CHRONICLE TUESDAY | 6 FEBRUARY 2018 | CHENNAI

State

PAGE 6



CavinKare and Ability Foundation honoured achievers with disabilities awards in Chennai on Sunday.

MEPZ - SEZ
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
Tambaram, Chennai - 600 045
KITCO INVITES TENDERS FOR
1. Painting of SDF-II building.
2. Painting of SDF-III building.
3. Construction of bitumen speed breaker and painting of speed breakers at Various location.
4. Providing Barbed Wire Fencing to Compound Wall Near S.F Patel Jeep Track Road.
5. SITC of 2000 kg freight lift and dismantling, leading and buying back of existing freight lift at SDF-I.
SALE OF TENDER :
07.02.2018 to 22.02.2018
FOR ANY DETAILS
Ph: 044 - 45118383

Two die in bee attack in Erode

ZAKEER HUSSAIN I DC
ERODE, FEB. 5:

At least two persons died and four others were severely injured after they were attacked by a swarm of bees in a village near Erode ahead of an ensuing temple festival on Monday.

Villagers and community leaders in Jambai village near Erode gathered at the local Komuniappan temple on the Bhavani river bank on Monday to plan the conduct of temple festival.

Following the meeting, they performed special 'poojas' at the premises, offering 'pongal' as 'prasad' to be distributed to all the devotees. When heavy smoke formed on the spot disturbed bee-hives in five trees inside the temple premises, sources told DC.

Though most people were able to run away as the irate bees encircled the villagers and began to sting them, it was only some senior citizens who got severely hurt.

The names of the injured persons were given as Mayilsamy, 60, Ponnusamy, 70, Chinnammal, 70, Ganeshan, 47, Nataraj, 60 and Ramasamy, 70.

The injured were rescued by Fire and Rescue Services department personnel and were admitted to the Bhavani government hospital where Mayilsamy and Ponnusamy succumbed to the bee stings.

The other four persons were shifted to the Erode government hospital for further treatment. Bhavani police are probing the incident.

COLLEGE BUS FLIPS NEAR TIRUPUR, 20 INJURED

Tirupur: A private college bus flipped to its side near Tirupur on Monday, injuring at least 20 students.

Police said the bus of a private arts and science college in Muthur, near Vellakovil, was on its way to college after picking up students. About 50 students were in the bus when the incident took place at Koolialayam junction on Uthukuli road as the driver lost control. The injured students were admitted to Tirupur headquarters government hospital here.

STUDENT ATTACKS PRINCIPAL ON BEING ASKED TO STUDY

FROM PAGE 1

Babu on reaching school Monday morning, summoned five of the students from that class, whom he considered to be very poor performers, and warned them to take their studies seriously, or else face disciplinary action.

Enraged by the strong words allegedly used by the headmaster, one of the boys suddenly took out a knife and stabbed Mr Babu in his stomach and near his ear, police said. Mr Babu's condition was stated to be critical, sources said.

Punjab Bus Metro Society (PBMS)
(A Govt. of Punjab Undertaking)
PIDB Office, SCO 34-35, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh - 160022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Re-Tender) E-Tender
Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Operator for operation and maintenance of 93 Nos. Diesel Fuelled Fully Built 900 mm AC Standard Size BRT Buses under the Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) in Amritsar City.
PBMS intends to appoint qualified Bus Operator for Operation and Maintenance of 93 Nos. diesel fuelled fully built 900 mm AC Standard Size BRT Buses on Gross Cost Contract Basis under the Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) in Amritsar City. For this purpose, bids are invited from reputed National/International parties with necessary qualifications and capabilities, through e-tendering method with supporting documentary evidences as provided in RFP. Interested parties may download the RFP document for captioned work from the website www.tender.punjabgovt.gov.in or www.pbdb.org from Friday, 09.02.2018. The bidders shall have to get themselves registered with etender.punjabgovt.gov.in. Class-3 Digital signatures are mandatory for participation. For clarifications on e-tendering, please contact E-procurement Helpdesk on 8146699896, 9257209340. The bidding schedule of the project is as follows:
Pre-bid at PBMS office 15.02.2018 by 1500 hours
Last date of downloading the RFP 05.03.2018 by 1300 hours
Last date and time for online bid submission 05.03.2018 by 1400 hours
Last date and time for hard copy bid submission at PIDB Office 05.03.2018 by 1500 hours
Technical Bid Opening at PBMS Office 05.03.2018 by 1600 hours
(In the presence of the bidders who wish to be present for the bid opening)
Financial Bid Opening at PBMS Office To be intimated later on
(In the presence of the bidders who wish to be present for the bid opening)
The interested parties are requested to send queries, if any, to agm.projects@pbdb@gmail.com. Member Secretary, PBMS reserves the right to accept or reject any application and to annul the bidding process at any time, without incurring any liability and without assigning any reason thereof. Bidders are requested to visit www.etender.punjabgovt.gov.in / www.pbdb.org for further information, addendum, replies to queries & other details on regular basis.
RO No. DPR/REB/18/C-526
Member Secretary, PBMS

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
TENDER NOTICE NO. S/BS/2017
Dated: 02-02-2018. (1) All tenders have been uploaded on Indian Railways-E-Procurement portal (IREPS) - www.ireps.gov.in. For details & necessary guidelines for quoting against e-tender. Please visit IR-E-Procurement portal. Tenders are due to be opened on **05-03-2018 and 06-03-2018**. (2) The prospective tenderers are advised to get them registered on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> on line. This registration is mandatory for participation in e-tendering and is free of charge. (3) Please submit offers online for the following stores: **Description, PL No, Quantity, Tender no respectively Shock Absorber (YAW DUMPER) for LHB, 33502420, 232 Nos, 30/17/1089/OT/456/17. PVC insulated Armoured Unscreened under ground Railway Signalling cable 6 core x 1.5 Sq.mm, 5611N001, 5611N002, 5611NS03, 5611NS04, 5611NS05, 5611NS06, 74 KM, 50/17/5143/OT/457/17. Rake test Rig (RTR-1) to Drawing No. 3 KB-3032 Escorts or similar, 6590N001, 6590N002, 4 Nos, 60/18/5014/OT/458/17. Portable battery Charging machine, 6590NS01, 1 Nos, 60/15/5305/OT/459/17. Hytral Upper Washer for primary suspension, 30010871, 4122 Nos, 30/17/0993/OT/460/17. Protective Tube (Polyacetal) Complete for Axle Box Guide Arrangement, 30010901, 7853 Nos, 30/17/0013/OT/461/17.**
Controller of Stores
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

HDFC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.
BRANCH : HDFC HOUSE, No.29, KAMARAJ ROAD, NEAR CIRCUIT HOUSE, COIMBATORE - 641 018. TEL: (0422) 4343954, 4343957 FAX : (0422) 2222530

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC Limited) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors listed hereunder, to pay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notice to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective address of the said Borrowers/Guarantors. Copies of the said Notice is available with the undersigned, and the said Borrowers/Guarantors may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrowers/Guarantors to pay to HDFC Limited, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amount indicated hereinbelow in their respective name, together with further interest @ 18% p.a. as detailed in the said Demand Notice from the respective date mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrowers/Guarantors. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset has been mortgaged to HDFC Limited by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

S. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset(s) / Immovable Property(ies)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
1.	Mrs. Jayanthi N Mr. Shankar R Orchid Homes, Flat No: S2 2nd Floor, Bharani Nagar Near Kumananchavadi Signal Katupakkam, Chennai-600056 (address common for both above)	Rs. 25,89,066/- as on 31.12.2017*	24.01.2018	All that piece and parcel of vacant land bearing Plot No.16, comprised in survey No.216/1A2A, 'Bharani Nagar', situated at Katupakkam Village, poonamallee taluk, Thiruvallur District, measuring an extent of 450 Sq.ft., Undivided share of land out of 1800 Sq. ft., or thereabouts together with 852 Sq. ft., built up area, bearing Flat No.S-2.

*with further interest @ 18% p.a. as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred from 01-01-2018 till the date of payment and / or realization.

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to HDFC Limited as aforesaid, then HDFC Limited shall proceed against the above Secured Asset(s) / Immovable Property (ies) under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrowers/Guarantors as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers/Guarantors is prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset (s) / Immovable Property (ies), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of HDFC Limited. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 05-02-2018
Place : COIMBATORE
Regd. Office: Ramon House, H T Parekh Marg, 169, Backbay Reclamation, Churchgate, Mumbai- 400020

AUTHORISED OFFICER
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.

TENDERS / NOTICES

Indian Overseas Bank
KOYAMBEDU BRANCH
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property (Rule 8(1))

No.57, Kalliamman Koil Street, Sayee Nagar, Koyambedu, Chennai-600 106.

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, Koyambedu Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a demand notice dated 22.09.2016 calling upon the borrower, M/s. A.N. Builders and Promoters, No.10/1 Angamuthu Street, Postal Audit Colony, Saligramam, Chennai-600093, 2. Mr.N.Aravanan, S/o. Mr.Narayanan, Partner, A.N.Builders and Promoters, No.59C, Venkatesh Nagar Extn-II, 3rd Main Road, Virugambakkam, Chennai-600092, 3. Mr.V.Ayyappan, S/o.Mr.Veerasekaran, Partner, A.N.Builders and Promoters, 1650/A, Thanthai Periyar Nagar, 4th Street Chekkalai Kottai, Karaikudi-630002, 4. Mr.P.Ramasubramanian, S/o. Mr.A.N. Pichaimanian, Partner, A.N.Builders and Promoters, No.4, Ramasamy Naicker Street, Muthupattinam, Karaikudi-630001, 5. Mr.R.Karu Manickam S/o. Mr.K.Ramasamy, Partner, A.N.Builders and Promoters, No.40, Vadakkottai, Kannangudi Post, Devakottai-630316, 6. Mr.K.G.S.Chandrasekar, S/o.Mr.K.G.Shanmugasundaram, Partner, A.N.Builders and Promoters, 9, Muthoorani East, Muthoorani, Karaikudi-630001, to repay the loan amount mentioned in the notice being a sum of Rs. 4,48,06,404/- (Rupees Four Crore Forty Eight Lakh Six Thousand Four Hundred Four Only) as on 22.09.2016 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount in full, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 31st day of January of the year 2018.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs. 4,48,06,404/- (Rupees Four Crore Forty Eight Lakh Six Thousand Four Hundred Four Only) as on 22.09.2016 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed along with overdue interest of 2%, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less total repayments amounting to Rs.1,42,00,000/- (paid on various dates), made after issue of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is Rs.4,04,17,640.42 (Rupees Four Crore Four Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Six Hundred Forty and Paise Two Only) payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, along with overdue interest of 2%, charges etc., till date of payment.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Prime Security: Item No.1 (Owned by Mr.Narayanan): All that piece and parcel of land and building, land measuring 10080 Sq.ft. in VGP Industrial Complex, comprised in Old Survey No.308/2A1 Part, New Survey No.308/53 Part, as per latest computer Patta No.2089, Sub-divided Survey Number is 308/80 Approved by LP/DM/DDTP No.27/78, situated in Mevlurkuppam Village (Chettipedu), Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District standing in the name of Mr.Narayanan. Bounded on the; North by: Vacant Land remaining portion belong to VGP Housing (P) Ltd, South by: Mr.T.Ganesan Land, East by: 50 Feet Road and West by: Saveetha Engineering College Land. Measuring on the; North to South 90 running feet in the Eastern side, North to South 90 running feet in the Western side, East to West 100 running feet in the Northern side, East to West 124 running feet in the Southern side. The property situated within the Registration District of Kancheepuram and in the Sub-Registration District of Sriperumbudur.

Item No.1 (Owned by Mr.T.Ganesan): All that piece and parcel of land and building, land measuring 7650 Sq.ft. in VGP Industrial Complex, comprised in Old Survey No.308/2A1 Part, New Survey No.308/53 Part, as per latest computer Patta No.2076, Sub-divided Survey Number is 308/79 Approved by LP/DM/DDTP No.27/78, situated in Mevlurkuppam Village (Chettipedu), Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District standing in the name of Mr.T.Ganesan. Bounded on the; North by: Vacant Land remaining portion belongs to N.Narayanan, South by: 40 feet Road, East by: 50 Feet Road and West by: Saveetha Engineering College Land. Measuring on the; North to South 60 running feet in the Eastern side, North to South 60 running feet in the Western side, East to West 124 running feet in the Northern side, East to West 131 running feet in the Southern side. The property situated within the Registration District of Kancheepuram and in the Sub-Registration District of Sriperumbudur.

Date : 31.01.2018
Place: Chennai
Authorised Officer
Indian Overseas Bank

SOUTH INDIAN Bank
TENDER CUM AUCTION
SALE NOTICE
Regional Office: Niagra Apartments, No.1, Sterling Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600034
Tel. No: +91 - 44 28238250/ 28281109
E-mail: rt1005@siib.co.in

WHEREAS the Authorized Officer of the Bank has issued Demand Notice dated 12.04.2017 u/s. 13(2) of the Act to borrower 1) Mr. K Saravanan, S/o. Mr. Kannappan Mudaliar, Proprietor: M/s. Saravana Enterprises, 73B/9, Pallikoduthan Street, Kancheepuram-631502 (Also at Mr. K. Saravanan, S/o. Mr. Kannappan Mudaliar, Door No. 73A/8 73/A2, Mettu Street, Kancheepuram-631501) and Guarantors 2) Mr. K. Murugadoss, S/o. Mr. Kannappan Mudaliar, Door No. 73A/8 73/A2, Mettu Street, Kancheepuram-631501 3) Mr. N. Kannappan, S/o. Namasivaya Mudaliar, Door No. 73A/8 73/A2, Mettu Street, Kancheepuram-631501, under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as 'The Act') and has taken symbolic possession of the immovable properties, more fully described in the schedule hereunder under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 05.07.2017.

AND WHEREAS, the borrowers have failed to pay the amount, notice is hereby given that the immovable properties more fully described in the Schedule hereunder will be sold by way of Tender Cum Auction on "as is where is" basis and "as is what is" condition, on the date and at the place mentioned herein below for realization of a sum of Rs.5,95,78,260.20 (Rupees Five Crores Ninety Five Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand Two Hundred Sixty and Paise Twenty Only) as on 02.02.2018 with further interest and costs thereon from 03.02.2018., subject to the following terms and conditions:-

Name of Property Owners	1. Mr. K. Saravanan; 2. Mr. K Murugadoss 3. Mr. N. Kannappan Mudaliar
Description of property	All that piece and parcel of Land admeasuring 4449.50 Sq Feet with building bearing Door No.s 73/A & 73/A2 comprised in T.S. No. 2617 & 2617/2, Mettu Street, Therukuppattarai Village, Kancheepuram Taluk & District together with all other appurtenant rights and improvements thereon in the name of Mr. K Saravanan, Mr. K. Murugadoss & Mr. Kannappan Mudaliar morefully described in the schedule to Sale Deed 3112/1999 dated 29.11.1999, Sale Deed 3111/1999 dated 29.11.1999 and Sale Deed 4057/1969 dated 02.08.1969 of SRO Joint 4, Kancheepuram with the following boundaries:- Item No.1 (admeasuring 1022 Sq Ft in the name of Mr. K Saravanan) North : Canal, South : Street, East : Plot No.A3, West: Plot No.A1. Item No.2 (admeasuring 738 Sq Ft in the name of Mr. K Murugadoss) North : Canal, South : Street, East : Plot No.A3, West : Plot No.A1. Item No.3 (admeasuring 2689.50 Sq Ft in the name of Mr. N Kannappan Mudaliar) North : Canal, South : Street, East: Property of Sankara Nainar, West : Main Road
Reserve Price	Rs 5,95,00,000/- (Rupees Five Crores Ninety Five Lakhs Only)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs.59,50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Nine Lakhs Fifty Thousand only) shall be paid by way of DD drawn in favour of 'Authorised Officer, The South Indian Bank Limited' payable at Chennai /RTGS to 'the Account No. 0110073000002376 of Authorised Officer, The South Indian Bank Ltd.' Chennai Nungambakkam Branch and IFSC/NEFT Code is SIBL0000110 along with tender letter in a sealed cover to the Authorised Officer on or before 11.00 AM on 20.03.2018
Date and Place of Sale	On 20.03.2018 at 11.30 am at The South Indian Bank Ltd, Kancheepuram Branch, Door No.68, KPJ Complex, Kamarajar Road, Kancheepuram-631501

TERMS AND CONDITIONS :

- The proposed Tenderers shall read and understand the terms and conditions mentioned in the Tender Sale Notice which is published by the Bank in its Website/Kancheepuram Branch, Door No.68, KPJ Complex, Kamarajar Road, Kancheepuram-631501, and Regional Office at No.1, Niagra Apartments, Sterling Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600034 also visit the scheduled property and satisfy as to its area, boundaries etc, ownership title, encumbrances, statutory approvals, measurements etc. The Bank shall not entertain any dispute regarding the Tender process or the scheduled property after participating in the sale.
- Interested Tenderers shall produce a copy of any valid photo identity/ address proof. In case, the Tenderer is participating on authorization, he should produce authorization letter along with the ID proof of himself and the Tenderer.
- The Sealed Tenders along with EMD shall be submitted to Authorised Officer before 11.00 AM on 20.03.2018 at The South Indian Bank Ltd, Kancheepuram Branch, at the above address. The sealed tenders will be opened by the AO on 20.03.2018 at 11.30 AM. Any tender received quoting a price below the Reserve price will be rejected outright.
- After opening the tenders, the Tenderers who are present may be given an opportunity at the discretion of the Authorized Officer to have inter se bidding among themselves to enhance their offer price.
- The AO has got right to cancel/ postpone the Sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- The Successful Tenderer should pay 25 % of the Tender amount (less EMD) immediately on receipt of bid acceptance letter or not less than next working day after the date of sale in his favour and the balance 75% amount within 15 days of the sale, failing which the entire amount paid by the Tenderer shall be forfeited by the AO, without any notice. However, in desirable cases the time may be extended at the sole discretion of the AO.
- On the sale being confirmed and on receipt of the entire sale proceeds by the AO, the successful Tenderer will be issued with a Sale Certificate as per the terms and conditions of the Bank and the Act. The successful Tenderer should pay all the existing dues etc., to the Government/ Local Authorities including charges/ fees payable for registration of sale certificate such as registration Fees, Stamp Duty etc., as applicable as per law.
- The Authorised Officer has obtained EC/ search report regarding the property from 01.01.1987 to 23.01.2018 and it contains no encumbrance.
- For any further information and for inspection of property, the intended Tenderers may contact the Authorised Officer, Regional Office, Chennai Niagra Apartments, No.1, Sterling Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 034, Tamil Nadu, Ph. No. 044-28281109 or The South Indian Bank Ltd., Kancheepuram Branch Ph. 044 -27222662 during working hours.
- This may be treated as notice to the borrowers/ guarantors informing them that the property will be sold if the entire amount due to the Bank being Rs. 5,95,78,260.20 (Rupees Five Crores Ninety Five Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand Two Hundred Sixty and Paise Twenty Only) as on 02.02.2018 with further interest and costs thereon from 03.02.2018 is not remitted on or before the date fixed for sale.

AUTHORISED OFFICER
(CHIEF MANAGER)
Date : 03-02-2018
Place : Chennai



BJP MP Shatrughan Sinha says stature of ministers has diminished and perception of government reduced to “one-man show”

He (Modi) did not speak as Prime Minister. He has uttered a tissue of lies and made baseless and irresponsible allegations



IN BRIEF

ATS arrest ‘terrorist’ in UP

Lucknow/Srinagar: The Uttar Pradesh ATS on Monday said it had arrested a terrorist who had close links with militant groups operating in Kashmir. Sheikh Ali Akbar, a resident of Ghazipur district, was arrested from Lohia Path here, IG ATS Aseem Arun said. The senior police officer in a statement said four terrorists arrested from Bandipora in Kashmir on Sunday had told the police that Akbar was associated with them and had recently taken ₹40,000 for supplying them with arms.

Kasganj tense again due to arson

Lucknow: Tension prevailed in Kasganj once again after the door of a religious place was set on fire on Monday early morning in the Sabzi Mandi in Ganjundwara area. District magistrate R.P. Singh and SSP Piyush Srivasatava immediately reached the spot and deployed security personnel. A huge crowd had collected in the area even as the fire was being put out. All shops in Ganjundwara remained closed on Monday in protest against the incident.

RYAN CASE: 16-YR-OLD IN CHARGESHEET

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
GURGAON, FEB. 5

The CBI on Monday charged a teenager with killing a seven-year-old student at a private school in Bhondsi here in September last year in a bid to postpone exams and cancel a scheduled parent-teacher meeting. In its chargesheet filed before Additional Sessions Judge Jasbir Singh Kundu, the agency said that sufficient oral, documentary and forensic evidence has come on record to substantiate that the 16-year-old accused had committed the murder on September 8 last year. “It is, therefore, prayed that since a case of committing of murder of Prince on September 8, 2017 is made out against Bholu, this court may be pleased to take cognisance for the commission of offences punishable under 302 (murder) of IPC against Bholu accordingly as per law,” it said. The victim’s body was found with the throat slit in the washroom of the school. The agency also gave a clean chit to school bus conductor Ashok Kumar, who was earlier arrested by the Gurgaon Police, and sought his discharge. “He further stated that he had confessed to have committed the murder of Prince under coercion and threat of police officers concerned of Gurgaon police. He further stated that he was tortured and beaten by Gurgaon police officers,” the agency said.

WOMAN SAVES HUSBAND FROM GOONS

Lucknow, Feb. 5: In a courageous attempt, a woman in Kakori area here saved her husband from goons who were thrashing him ruthlessly with rods outside his residence, the police said on Monday. The footage of the incident, caught live on camera went viral on social and electronic media. In the video, the victim identified as Abid Ali, a local journalist, is seen being attacked by half a dozen men at the gate of his house. As Ali was being hit mercilessly, his wife, a lawyer, in a spontaneous reaction quickly pulled out a pistol and fired a few rounds and scared away the attackers, who were believed to be sent by Ali’s landlord as a result of some dispute between them, police said on Monday.

Shah slams Congress over GST

■ Says BJP spent three years ‘paving potholes that Congress had dug’

FROM PAGE 1

“Mr Shah listed at length his government’s achievements and what he called its “historic work” since it came to power, contrasting it with the Congress governments, which he said had suffered from “acute policy paralysis.”

Asserting that a lot of the government’s effort in the last three years had gone into “paving the potholes” that the Congress had dug in India over “55 years of one-family rule”, Mr Shah attacked the Congress over its chief Rahul Gandhi’s mockery of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) as the “Gabbar Singh Tax”.

The GST is not a loot, instead it is for the benefit of the economy, Mr Shah said and went on to add that canards are being spread that the BJP was against GST when it was in Opposition.

He also asked the Congress whether it was inciting people not to pay



Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav and noted lawyer and Rajya Sabha MP Ram Jethmalani in New Delhi on Monday.

taxes. “Is a dacoity taking place here? Is legally claiming taxes from people a dacoity? Is this the understanding of people? And where does this Gabbar Singh Tax/GST go? It goes in the bank account of a jawan for giving One Rank, One Pension, it goes in the bank account of widows of martyrs. It goes towards giving the poor women (clean cooking fuel) Ujjwala Yojana,” Mr Shah said. The BJP chief also pitched for simultaneous

Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, besides touching upon a host of measures taken by his government, including Triple Talaq and the OBC Commission Bill that are stuck in the Upper House. Mr Modi, who sat in the Upper House for nearly three hours, later tweeted, “A wonderful speech by BJP President Amit Shah in Rajya Sabha.” Ghulam Nabi Azad, Leader of Opposition and senior Congress leader, took on the ruling party over various issues,

including systemic attempts to “polarise” the nation. Mr Azad said that the Modi government is not a “game changer” but just a “name changer,” and listed out schemes of the Congress governments that have been renamed.

“There is only one party and people of their choice and those belonging to them are getting employment and opportunities,” Mr Azad said, and attacked the government saying that today a different form of appeasement is taking place.

“A fear psychosis has set in. You cannot see when you are in power. If someone is scared to talk to the Opposition or transact with them, it is not good for democracy or freedom of speech or even freedom of business.”

Accusing the government of dividing the country, Mr Azad said, “You have divided Shias and Sunnis. Now you are dividing husband and wife.

K'TAKA CM HITS BACK AT MODI

FROM PAGE 1

This came as a retort to Modi’s assertion that the countdown for the exit of the Siddaramaiah government had begun and it was at the exit gate.

Sounding the poll bugle for the upcoming Assembly polls in Karnataka, Modi had accused the Siddaramaiah government of creating new records in corruption and dubbed it a “10 per cent commission government.”

“If they have evidence to prove, let them furnish the documents under which project or scheme corruption happened,” the chief minister said.

Modi had alleged criminals were ruling the roost and “ease of doing murders” was being discussed in the state while his government talked of ease of doing business.



Captain Kapil Kundu's sister mourns after his mortal remains were brought at AFS Palam in New Delhi on Monday.

Ruckus in J&K Assembly over ceasefire violations

DC CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, FEB. 5

Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Monday witnessed a ruckus over the Army and civilians casualties caused in the latest ceasefire violation by Pakistani troops along the Line of Control, leading to the adjournment of the House. Four Army soldiers including a captain were killed and two others and a BSF trooper and two civilians injured in the Pakistani firing in Bimber Gali sector of Rajouri district and Shahpur sector in neighbouring Poonch district on Sunday. The cross-LoC firing was reported also from Manjakote area of Rajouri and at a couple of places in Poonch during the day. The Army had said that the Pakistani troops

used small and medium automatic weapons and mortar guns to target the Indian forward posts and civilian areas in these sectors. It also said the Indian troops retaliated “strongly and effectively” to “unprovoked and indiscriminate” firing by the Pakistani troops, using the same calibre weaponry. In view of tensions and to prevent harm coming to students and teachers, the authorities ordered closure of 84 schools located in close proximity to the LoC in Rajouri for three days. “We’ve closed 84 schools for three days as a precautionary measure. We’ve also deputed teams to assess the loss to properties and livestock in the Pakistani firing in the district,” said Rajouri’s deputy commissioner Shahid Iqbal Choudhary.

INDIA LODGES PROTEST OVER ARMY DEATHS

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 5

India on Monday lodged a strong protest with Pakistan in Islamabad over the ceasefire violations by Pakistani forces which led to the death of four Army personnel. “A protest has been lodged by the Indian High Commission in Islamabad with Pakistani authorities,” sources said. Pakistani forces have been engaging in unprovoked ceasefire violations both at the LoC and the international border in J&K, while the Indian Army has been retaliating strongly.

GIRI URGES FOR INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 5

Heated exchanges among senior advocates Dushyant Dave, Pallav Sisodia and Justice D.Y. Chandrachud marred the day’s proceedings in the Supreme Court hearing the petitions seeking an SIT probe into the death of Judge B.H. Loya.

Mr Dave intervened and told the court that the purpose of filing this petition by Mr. Sisodia was to prevent a hearing of the petition filed in Bombay High Court.

He objected to Mr Sisodia and Mr Salve appearing for BJP President Amit Shah and now appearing for other parties.

He said, “the Bar Council of India has issued notice to me for misconduct for raising voice of truth while people who have indulged in misconduct like them get away. I won’t be cowed down.”

Mr Sisodia turned towards Mr. Dave and said, “Dave, we don’t care what you say... you can go to hell or heaven or wherever you want.”

SHARAD MEETS LALU IN JAIL FOR ANTI-BJP FRONT

DC CORRESPONDENT
PATNA, FEB. 5

Rebel JD(U) leader Sharad Yadav meeting with RJD Chief Lalu Yadav inside the jail. Lalu is in has fuelled speculations regarding the emergence of an anti-BJP front before the 2019 general elections. Sources claim that Sharad Yadav and other political leaders are making an effort to bring secular parties on one platform to oppose the NDA government at the Centre in the upcoming elections.

RJD Chief Lalu Yadav has been at the forefront of building a larger secular front against the BJP. Ahead of his meeting, Sharad Yadav accused the BJP of putting the country’s unity at risk through divisive politics. “Effort is being made to bring all opposition parties together on one platform. Before Lalu Yadav went to jail he spoke about the issue,” the ousted JD(U) leader said before he met Lalu Yadav inside Birsa Munda Jail on Monday.



CRIME FILES

BILLIONAIRE BOOKED FOR CHEATING

New Delhi, Feb. 5: The CBI has booked billionaire diamond merchant Nirav Modi, his brother and wife and a business partner for allegedly cheating Punjab National Bank of over ₹280.70 crore crore during 2017, officials said.

The CBI has acted on a complaint from the Punjab National Bank, which al-



leged that Modi, his brother Nishal, wife Ami and Mehul Chhoksi, all partners of Diamond R’ US, Solar Exports, Stellar Diamonds, were in conspiracy with officials of the bank and cheated it, causing “wrongful loss”, the officials said.

— PTI

INDRANI SENT TO 2-DAY CUSTODY

New Delhi, Feb. 5: A special court here on Monday sent Indrani to two days CBI custody in connection with a case related to INX Media.

Special CBI Judge Sunil Rana allowed the CBI to interrogate Indrani for two days and directed that she be brought



before it on February 7. Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram’s son Karti’s name has also cropped up in the case, which relates to Foreign Investment Promotion Board approval granted in 2007 for receipt of funds by INX Media. — PTI

Only law can govern marriage: SC

DC CORRESPONDENT
WITH AGENCY INPUTS
NEW DELHI, FEB. 5

The Supreme Court today asked khap panchayats not to behave like the conscience keeper of society, pointing out that a marriage between two adults was governed by the law.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra said it would set up a high-level committee consisting of senior police officers to deal with issues relating to intervention in marriages by bodies such as khap panchayats. “Whether the law prohibits or allows a particular mar-

riage, the law will take its own course. Don’t be the conscience keeper (of society),” the bench, also comprising justices A.M. Khanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud, said. The observation came when a counsel representing a khap panchayat said it had been encouraging inter-caste and inter-faith marriages and referred to provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act which prohibit a union between ‘sapinda’ relationships or close blood relatives among Hindus. The lawyer said the khap had been performing its duties as the conscience keeper of society.

LOOK OUT CIRCULAR AGAINST ROHINI ASHRAM FOUNDER: CBI

New Delhi, Feb. 5: The CBI on Monday told the Delhi High Court that a look out circular (LOC) has been issued against Virender Dev Dixit, who allegedly kept girls and women confined at an ashram founded by him here. The agency made the submission after a bench

and Justice C. Hari Shankar asked whether Dixit had joined the CBI probe into the running of his ashrams and the complaints against him. The court also said the ashram was not a ‘vishwa-vidyalaya or university.

— PTI

take the law into your hands,” the bench said, adding that khaps had “no business.”

TEMPLE PLANS IN UAE

IN A SYMBOLIC GESTURE, PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI WILL THROUGH VIDEO-LINK PARTICIPATE IN THE CEREMONY TO LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR A HINDU TEMPLE IN ABU DHABI, THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

SPECIAL EVENT

- Modi will also visit the huge Sultan Qaboos Mosque in Muscat during his three-nation visit to Palestines, the UAE and Oman from February 9 to 12.
- Modi will be hosted in Abu Dhabi where he will reach on the evening of February 10 by
- UAE PRESIDENT and Abu Dhabi ruler Sheikh Al-Nahyan.
- IN MUSCAT, Oman, Modi will meet the ruler Sultan Qaboos.

■ MODI WILL then travel to Dubai where he will deliver speak at the World Government Summit on technology.

OIL TIES

■ THE UAE is supplying over 5 million barrels of oil for India’s strategic oil reserves that will be stored on caverns built at Pudur, Mangalore in Karnataka.

■ OFFICIALS SAID that in the past one year, about \$4 billion in investment in FDIs and commitments had been made from the UAE in various sectors and another about US\$ 5 billion in portfolios that explains the “market buoyancy”.

CHILD MARRIAGE VICTIM ATTENDS SCHOOL HIDING THALI

Tiruvannamalai: Feb. 5 (PTI) A class 10 girl student of a school near here got married a year ago and was attending classes all along hiding her marital status by concealing her mangalsutra in her dress. A victim of child marriage, prohibited under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006, the girl got married when she was only about 14. An anonymous petition was submitted to the Mahila Court here and following the plea, action was initiated by the District Social Welfare Officer and subsequently a senior official on Monday inspected the girl’s school. Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority and District Judge Mahizhendhi on Monday inspected the school, and spoke to the girl and her class mates. DLSA sources told PTI. The girl, a resident of a village near Arani town which is about 60 km from here is studying in a Government Higher

Secondary School in the hamlet. Though she was married, she did not disclose it and continued to attend classes as usual. She was found concealing the mangalsutra in her dress, the sources said. The petition seeking action has been forwarded to the DLSA and secretary of the authority, K. Rajmohan has sought a report from the Social and Child Welfare Committee officials. The Social and Child Welfare officials have been asked to explain on how the child marriage took place and steps taken following the complaint. The report will be placed before the DLSA Tuesday and appropriate legal action, including criminal prosecution, will be initiated against those responsible for the marriage, the sources said. Last year, a girl in Tiruvannamalai district had thwarted her underage marriage by informing authorities. —PTI

Govt. of Bihar

Cabinet Secretariat Department
(Directorate of Civil Aviation)
Patna Airport, Patna-800014.
Letter:No: CBN(Misc.) -11/2017-437Patna, Dated 02-02-2018
Re-Tender Notice
Sealed tenders are invited from DGCA approved organization/Company/Firms having adequate experience for the following works of Bihar Govt. King Air C-90 A/B Aircraft VT-EBG S/N 1752 :-
The details of work:-
A. Removal, overhaul of following components with required spares and installation.

Sl.No	Description	P/N	Qty.
(i)	Main landing Gear assy (LH)	90-810039-1	01
(ii)	Main landing Gear assy (RH)	90-810039-2	01
(iii)	Nose landing Gear assy	101-820029-31	01
(iv)	Propeller assy (LH)	HC-E4N-3N/E4N00131-11.SL No. HH4554	01
(v)	Propeller assy (RH)	HC-E4N-3N/E4N00131-11. SL No. HH4579	01

B. **Procurement of following spares and their installation on Aircraft:-**
Sl. No. 01 to 10 (List attached).
C. S/N. 11,12,13, & 14 spares will be provided by Govt. of Bihar. (List attached) and required to be installed on aircraft.
D. Re-charging of O2 Bottle of aircraft.
Terms and Condition
1. Tender must reach to the Director-cum-Spl. Secretary civil aviation directorate, Patna airport, Patna-14 on or before 27th Feb/2018 at 1700 Hrs.
2. Bidders shall submit their offer in two separate envelopes labeled as Technical Bid and Financial Bid. These two Bids shall be kept in another big envelope which should be sealed and described “Tender for overhaul and replacement of components of King Air C-90 A/B, S/n-1752 Aircraft”.
3. Technical Bid should contain work experience of organization/Company/Firms (Overhaul of Hartzell propeller and Landing Gear) for min 10 Yrs.
4. Income tax return of previous year and proof of annual turnover along with audited financial statement of last three years should be submitted along with Technical bid.
5. Company should submit a certificate that the company has not been black listed by any organization/Govt. sector or Public sector unit.
6. Bank draft of Rs 50,000/- as security money payable to Director –cum chief pilot, Directorate of civil aviation, Govt. of Bihar.
7. Financial bid should contain total charges including spares required for completion of all the explained works.
8. Financial bid will be opened only of those tenderer whose technical bid will be found in order.
9. Security money of unsuccessful bidders will be refunded immediately after final selection.
10. Work should be completed within 20 days after positioning the aircraft at the decided sight.
11. Technical bid will be opened at 1500Hrs on 06th March, 2018.
12. Financial bids of technically qualified bidders will be opened on 07th March, 2018 at 1530 Hrs.
13. Tender will be opened before the committee headed by Principal Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Department, Bihar, Patna at his official chamber or by Departmental Purchase Committee so authorized by him before bidders/authorized representatives
14. The successful Tenderer will have to sign an agreement as per rule, any violation of agreement will be deemed as breach of contract and accordingly legal action will be taken.
15. If the contractor fails to provide the service within the contract period a penalty @1% of the total Overhaul/replacement charges will be deducted per day.
16. In case of any dispute the matter will be decided in the judicature of High court, Patna.
17. The principal secretary cabinet secretariat Department, Govt. Bihar reserves the right to reject/cancel any/all tenders without assigning any reason therefor.
18. The further details of the tender can be seen on the departmental website www.csd.bih.nic.in and www.prdbihar.gov.in
PR. No. 13369 (CABINET SECRETARIAT) 2017-18 Director-cum-Spl. Secretary
कम उम्र की शादी सेकें, जीवन की बर्बादी सेकें।

DECCAN
Chronicle
6 FEBRUARY 2018

TDP among allies
unhappy with BJP

On Sunday, Telugu Desam Party supremo and Andhra Pradesh chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu took a step close to the brink and then retracted, although he appears deeply upset with the BJP for not reciprocating his pursuit of “coalition dharma”. He did not announce the breaking of ties with the saffron party for the next general election like the Shiv Sena, the BJP’s oldest ally, did recently, though this was seriously speculated. But he gave the BJP a fright. That’s why Union home minister Rajnath Singh and BJP president Amit Shah telephoned to ask him not to take a “hard” decision, and hinting his state’s demands could be favourably considered in the discussion on the Budget in Parliament.

But Mr Naidu was visibly upset with the 2018-19 Budget presented last week. Although this was the NDA’s last full-fledged Budget before the next Lok Sabha polls, the BJP hasn’t agreed to any of Andhra Pradesh’s demands: special status for the state after the creation of Telengana in 2014 and the resultant loss of revenues, financial support for establishing Amravati, the new state capital, and the Polavaram project.

After the Centre rebuffed the TDP in the budget, Mr Naidu called a meeting of all his party MPs, state legislators and other leaders on Sunday to discuss ties with the BJP

in the budget, Mr Naidu called a meeting of all party MPs, state legislators and other leaders on Sunday to discuss ties with the BJP. The TDP decided not to pull the plug, and wait instead to see what the Centre offers as financial support to keep the relationship going.

Nevertheless, in Parliament during the Budget Session, the TDP plans to play a demonstrative role to highlight Andhra Pradesh’s demands, almost like an Opposition party. It should be remembered that well before the Budget on February 1, the TDP, a part of the ruling NDA coalition, had voted with Opposition parties in the Rajya Sabha on the triple talag issue.

Lately, the Akali Dal has also spoken of “coalition dharma” and supported the TDP’s cause. The BJP’s ties with key allies — Shiv Sena, Akali Dal and TDP — are under strain. This is partly because the allies realise the ruling party is faltering.

Stirring communal pot in UP

Adding to a distressing sequence of stirring the communal pot in the country is BJP MP Vinay Katiyar’s comment that the Taj Mahal would soon become the “Tej Mandir”. While a lone legislator’s eccentric remark may mean little in terms of such preposterous ideas being entertained officially, the damage this does to communal harmony is most worrisome. Yogi Adityanath’s UP government may also be suspected to be the power behind influencing the decision to open the 10-day Taj Mahotsav in Agra, near India’s most famous monument, with a dance drama on Lord Ram this year. This of course is one way to display power in a continuous effort at one-upmanship over the history of the region and the never-ending quest to build a Ram temple in Ayodhya.

The saffronisation of issues in sensitive Uttar Pradesh is an ongoing process. Adding another dollop of controversy to this was a senior IPS officer, UP’s Home Guards DG, reportedly taking a pledge for early Ram temple construction. He may now be backtracking with claims that his words were misinterpreted, but it’s clear the officer is in serious breach of rules and regulations governing those in government service. Merely asking him for an explanation is like treating gross indiscipline with kid gloves. No officer of high rank can treat service regulations with such disdain. While they have the right to hold their own view on any matter, no one in the administration can be so openly political in public. Such flagrant breach of the apolitical status of civil servants or military personnel shouldn’t be allowed to go unpunished.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

A.T. JAYANTI
Editor

O. THOMAS
Printer & Publisher

R. MOHAN

Resident Editor

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:
Chennai: SP 3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai 600032. Phones: (044) 22254747, 22254748

Coinbatore: 77 Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coinbatore 641009. Phone: (0422) 2231255, 2231256
Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad 500 003. Phone: (040) 27803930-4. Fax: (040) 27805256.

Bengaluru: 5th Floor, BMTC Commercial Complex, 80 Ft. Road, Karamangala, Bangalore-560095. Ph: (080) 3460500; Fax: (080) 22960551/52/55

Visakhapatnam: Survey No. 1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017. Phones: (0891) 2552333/2552334. Fax: (0891) 2755285

Vijayawada: No. C 3 & 4, Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.). Phones: (0866) 2555284/ 2555287, Fax: (0866) 2555234

Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhawleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry 533125. Phones: (0883) 2417208, 2417618
Anantapur: Thapovan Colony, Bangalore Bye-Pass Road, Anantapur 515004. Phones: (08554) 276903, Fax: 08554-276904

Nellore: Survey No. 527/2, Burranpur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemudugunta Panchayat, Nellore. Phone: (0861) 2348581/ 82, Telefax (0861) 2348580

Karimnagar: Survey No. 1341, Vavilalappally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar 505 001. Phone: (0878) 2228908; Telefax (0878) 2220433

Kochi: No. 3-B, 3rd Floor, DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthara Road, Emakulam, Ph: 0484-4059408

Kozhikode: No 6/1002 E, First Floor City Mall, Opp. YMCA Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001
Fax: 0495 4019018

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Koreas’ Olympic thaw:
Dreams of peace rise...



Sreeram
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Foreign Pulse

Pyeongyang is coming to Pyeongchang. The 2018 Winter Olympics, being hosted by South Korea from February 9 to 25, will witness the rare sight of athletes from sworn antagonists North and South Korea marching together under a “unification flag” in the opening ceremony and fielding a combined team in the women’s ice hockey event.

The spectacle is all the more captivating because there are simultaneous visits by North Korean art troupes, orchestras and high-ranking government officials to the South to make the Pyeongchang Olympics an unforgettable visual moment in international history.

For the instinctively secretive and jingoistic North Korea to cheer a Winter Olympics being hosted by its arch-rival is not an insignificant step. When South Korea was to host the Summer Olympics in 1988, then North Korean dictator Kim Il-Sung ordered a boycott and unleashed his intelligence agents to blow up a South Korean passenger plane months before the Seoul Games, killing all 125 people on board in midair. The North’s motive was to create international panic about safety and security in the South, and thereby scare away foreigners from attending the Seoul Olympics.

Nonetheless, the North’s terror play failed and the 1988 Summer Games were hugely successful. Never willing to concede the inter-Korean ego contest of one-upmanship, the North organised a parallel Olympics-level event of its own in 1989 by spending an estimated \$4 billion and crowing about how more country delegations were its guests than at the Seoul

Olympics.

Behind the North’s jealousy and attempts to score points over the South was the quest to demonstrate that its model of one-party, one-man Communist authoritarian rule was superior to the latter’s pro-Western and gradually democratising form of government. Proving to its people that the Kim dynasty was more independent and infinitely fairer than “puppet” South Korea remains a key tenet of the North Korean regime’s survival strategy.

That is why North Korea is such a tightly sealed hermit kingdom where citizens’ mobility and their access to happenings abroad are heavily restricted. Dissing the South and hiding its remarkable economic and political achievements are core tenets of the relentless propaganda machinery in North Korea.

Yet, the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics are occurring at a different juncture and point to a new turn. The current tyrant in Pyongyang, Kim Jong-un, has realised he can’t perpetuate his hold on power by antagonising and alienating South Korea. With Russia and even China slowly joining hands with the United States to tighten the United Nations economic sanctions noose as punishment for Mr Kim’s nuclear and missile tests, there is only one consistent voice calling for an accommodative and negotiated approach toward him — liberal South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

Mr Kim wants to take advantage of Mr Moon’s war-aversion and low threshold of tolerance for any catastrophic clash unleashed by US President Donald Trump’s bellicosity. The so-called “bloody nose” doctrine, favoured by

Trump administration hawks, is a plan to launch a limited pre-emptive US military attack on a North Korean target to force Mr Kim to back down on his nuclear and missile development agenda.

Despite Mr Kim’s typical bravado, he knows that well-enforced UN sanctions plus a precise American military strike could squeeze him badly and spell doom. The only rational way out of the predicament for the wily Mr Kim is to wave the olive branch to Mr Moon and rupture the unity between the US and South Korea.

In Mr Moon, Mr Kim has a partner willing to relaunch the “Sunshine policy” of peace which was implemented by Mr Moon’s mentor, President Roh Moo-hyun, from 1998 to 2008. It’s not a coincidence that the last time when North and South Korean athletes marched jointly at the Olympics were in Sydney in 2000 and Athens in 2004, when Mr Moon was a close aide of President Roh, who believed in the path of peaceful reconciliation with the North.

Mr Moon floated the proposal for a unified sports team with North Korea for the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in June 2017, itself as a means to ease nerve-racking tensions and prevent a calamitous war as Mr Kim and Mr Trump were spoiling for a fight. But Mr Kim did not take up Mr Moon’s offer then. What changed in the ensuing months are the circumstances of growing international unanimity against Mr Kim’s nuclear brinkmanship.

Whenever cornered, North Korean leaders devise crafty schemes to extract concessions by

exploiting South Korea’s liberalism and emotional ethnic nationalism, which pines for reunification of the Korean peninsula and treats North Koreans as unfortunate siblings who must be embraced and uplifted. Already, Mr Kim has wrung one compromise from Mr Moon in return for the North’s dramatic entry into the Pyeongchang Olympics. Seoul persuaded Washington to postpone joint military exercises as a confidence-building measure with Pyeongyang. If Mr Moon goes further and offers economic aid to Mr Kim or revives inter-Korean industrial and tourist projects, it will bring considerable relief to the North from the sanctions-driven cash crunch.

But what happens once the Winter Olympics are over? The real games will begin. Mr Kim’s menacing New Year promise to “mass-produce” nukes and missiles suggests that he may sooner or later resume provocative launches to attain his strategic goal of attaining reliable deterrence capability against the US. Mr Trump may be compelled to go beyond words and order kinetic action. And younger and conservative South Koreans, who oppose dovishness, may pressure Mr Moon to stop blind appeasement of the trickster and butcher Mr Kim.

The Olympics thaw could fizzle out as the structural underpinnings of the geopolitical crisis over the Korean peninsula are unchanged. Ultimately, unless there is an overthrow of the Kim dynasty in Pyongyang or a grand accommodation between the US and China, permanent peace in this region is a fantasy. But even a tactical and opportunistic pause in belligerence due to the Olympics is welcome. The two high-strung Koreans need to breathe and exult as one people, if only temporarily.

In Mr Moon, Mr Kim has a partner willing to relaunch the ‘Sunshine policy’ of peace which was implemented by Mr Moon’s mentor, President Roh Moo-hyun, from 1998 to 2008

LETTERS

SILENT KILLER

The article *Depression: Silent killer at large (Feb.5)* made worthwhile reading. Medication is inevitable for those suffering from depression. One can easily make out the depressed condition in a person by his/her conversation and action. Generally, headache stomachache and leg pain, come under physical ailments and they affect the person concerned too much. Depressed persons affect people around by their strange expressions and behavior. Hence, they need to be treated not only on an urgent basis but also for a long period. Medication and unalloyed love from the family in particular can help the depressed ones lead a normal life.

S. Ramakrishnasayee,
Chennai

SHAMEFUL ACT

A good academician and a talented research scholar, A. Ganapathy, VC, Bharathiya University, has now won the notoriety of being the first VC to be arrested for taking bribe and getting caught red-handed by DVAC. His misdeed has belittled the esteem post. It is evident from the reports that after he assumed the VC post, there were allegations of corruption against him and especially in the selection of faculty members. His brazen audacity to skip the higher education secretary’s fax to defer the selection and to go ahead with the approval of improper selection and making an innocent officer a prey, is shocking and exposes his autocratic unlawful act.

M. Govindaraj, Gudiyatham

HEALTH INSURANCE

This refers to your Oped article *Baffling Budget: Public health for private wealth?* (Feb. 3). Insurance is only for in-patient care and it won’t cover doctors’ fees, medicines and tests, if not hospitalised. Many of the chronic ailments do not need hospitalisation. Infant and maternal health mostly depends on nutrition factors and old people require costly medicines. There is no system to strengthen our public health care system and the poor do not know to access to urban hospitals. For every-day health issues they need good primary health centres. Poor often prefer outpatient healthcare and some diseases like tuberculosis, malaria, diarrhoea do not need hospitalisation. Like eradication of polio, infant and maternal health may be improved and free or low cost important medicines are the need of the poor as they continue to pay out from pocket for treatment at home.

Suresh V.V., Vellore

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The writer is a professor
and dean of the Jindal
School of International
Affairs



Zarrar
Khuhro

‘Spyware’ apps
in your phone
pose a big risk

Health freaks can be quite a pain. You know the type: they turn up their nose at *nihari*, count their calories and crusade against carbohydrates. Given half a chance they’ll bore you with tales of their gym exploits, preach the cult of CrossFit and the benefits of boot camp, all the while counting steps on their accursed Fitbits. Because, much like vegans, they seem to feel that it’s not enough to simply practice; one must also preach. And of course, it’s no fun just competing against yourself: thanks to fitness apps that record and share the details of your workout, you can now show off your regimen to virtual strangers. Which brings us to the latest: while fitness evangelists have always been annoying, now they’re a bona fide security threat.

Take the online fitness tracker Strava: Using your mobile phone’s GPS and also data from other fitness devices like Fitbit and Jawbone, it publishes “heat maps” showing the routes taken by its

users as they jog, walk or bicycle, with the more frequently used routes showing up as brighter lines.

Now that’s fine when it comes to a public park or jogging track, but less so when it comes to military bases like the Bagram airbase in Afghanistan. A nerve centre of US operations in the Forever War, Bagram has been targeted by the Afghan Taliban, insider attacks and espionage, but now it seems that the latest security threat comes from jogging US military personnel sharing their location data with the world.

When you look at the map, you can tell which routes in the bases are used most frequently, and can even work out which nearby roads are more frequently patrolled — useful information for attackers and infiltrators. A similar problem was seen in the US forward bases in Helmand, and the base at Tanf in Syria. By contrast, few lights show up on Russian bases and none on Iranian bases in Syria: apparently

being less wired has its upside. Moreover, a hacker who accesses Strava’s data can also potentially track individual users and — if they happen to be military personnel — can come up with a fairly accurate picture of military deployment schedules.

This isn’t the first time apps have rung alarm bells in security circles. The Pokemon Go! fad sparked similar concerns in China, the US and Israel — to name just three countries. The Israeli army banned soldiers from playing Pokemon Go for fear that they could inadvertently expose military secrets — given that the app requires access to users’ locations and camera there are real concerns that soldiers hunting Pokemon on a military base could very well give away crucial information.

The US, for its part, also warned military personnel of the dangers and also cautioned them to make sure they had installed the original game, and not one of the many counterfeit apps that one can find

on the internet — bootleg versions of popular apps like WhatsApp, for example, which are riddled with spyware and malware that can allow access to your personal data.

In the Ukraine conflict, it was reported that Russian hackers developed a “poisoned” version of a Ukrainian military app used for processing targeting data for a weapon called the D-30 Howitzer.

Currently the most dangerous spyware masquerading as an app is considered to be Chrysaor, developed by Israeli firm NSO Group Technologies. Discovered by researchers at Google and Lookout, it can hack users’ cameras and microphone, as well as track calls, messages and internet history.

But even if you’re using original apps and being careful about not displaying your location or allowing those apps access to your camera, you’re still streaming tons of information about yourself to anyone with a capability of tapping that stream.

And the world’s top intel agencies

very much have that capability: according to classified documents leaked by whistleblower Edward Snowden America’s National Security Agency and the UK’s Government Communications Headquarters have spent billions developing the ability to scoop up user data from commercially available apps like Angry Birds — mining metadata and user submitted profile data — allowing them to develop accurate profiles of users (including their political affiliations) and even potentially track their movements.

This then is the brave new world of global surveillance; one where our very phones can be used to compromise us. For militaries and governments across the world it poses a new challenge to operational security and also provides an opportunity for the more technologically advanced. It’s not just loose lips that can sink ships anymore.

By arrangement with Dawn

To cleanse something thoroughly

To tear something up by the roots

DECCAN CHRONICLE

TUESDAY | 6 FEBRUARY 2018 | CHENNAI

Maharishi used catapults to let Beatles meditate



Saeed Naqvi

Wide Angle

This February is the 50th anniversary of the Beatles' sojourn with Maharishi Mahesh Yogi at his ashram in Rishikesh. I may be forgiven a touch of nostalgia. I participated in that idyllic, transformational twist the Beatles gave to their image: "Holy singers from the Hermitage." In recent decades I have been puzzled by first-hand accounts of that visitation written by folks who either claim or at least create an illusion of having been there. The puzzle is that as far as I know, I was the only "journalist" who had the Maharishi's nod to stay in the ashram during that hallowed period.

The Beatles were not the only ones who sat cross-legged around the Maharishi as around an altar. There were others — the Beach Boys, Paul

Horn the flutist, Donovan, writing a song a day, one of which I have kept as my exclusive possession: "When the sun is tucked away in bed./You worry about the life you led./There's only one thing to do./Let the Maharishi lead you."

The non-singing stars, who caught the limelight, were Mia Farrow and her sister Prudence. The galaxy of stars at the ashram may have placed Prudence in the category of less noticed meditators. But she grabbed everyone's attention when a sadhu looking after her hut rushed to Maharishi's cell with an unbelievable report — Prudence had slipped into a meditative trance which had lasted from dawn to dusk and was still continuing.

This gave Maharishi the sales pitch he was looking for after the setback at the hands of Beatles drummer Ringo Starr, who described the

ashram with supreme irreverence as a "Butlin's holiday camp", and left. Butlin was an inexpensive holiday camp chain in the England of the 1960s.

To encourage meditative marathons of the kind Prudence was in the thrall of, Maharishi would have to find some deterrence for the crows which had multiplied in the ashram foraging on the frugal fare the meditators had carelessly dropped. The challenge for the Maharishi was to keep Chaurasi Kutiya out of bounds for the noisy avians, but without resorting to violence.

The trick, suggested by ashram manager Suresh Babu, a close relative of the guru, was to arm the sadhus with catapults. The ammunition would be nothing more lethal than paper balls which would scare the crows but not hurt them. White-robed sadhus with catapults on the ready became a comical sight the next day. I am not certain if the trick to deter crows actually worked, but establishing noiseless serenity around Prudence Farrow's hut became a high priority with the guru. It was this heightened concern which caused him to visit her hut frequently, giving rise to a rumour that Maharishi had

FLASHBACK 50 YEARS AGO

made a pass at Prudence. In reality, of course, the rumour was a function of Prudence's fevered imagination.

Mia Farrow was a problem for another reason — she was a compulsive smoker. "Cigarettes only", Suresh Babu would wink. There appeared to be a tacit understanding among the ashramites that if someone was suspected of smoking marijuana, there would be no whistle-blowing. But Mia had created a particular problem for Suresh Babu, a meek man in all circumstances. She regularly sat on a chair outside his cottage, wreathed in circles of smoke, causing raised eyebrows among the sadhus and the more earnest meditators.

Matters came to a head one day when Raghu Singh, my photographer, summoned up enough courage to photograph Mia Farrow either lighting a cigarette or making rings with the smoke. The frame would be perfect if Suresh Babu were also in it. Raghu did manage that photograph, but only at a price — Mia gave him chase, screaming "b****d", past the sleepy sadhu manning the

gate. Raghu would not be allowed in the ashram any more, Suresh Babu announced afterwards.

This was easier said than done. The military alertness that the battalion of sadhus had displayed during the first week or so of the Beatles arrival had given way to a meditative serenity — except for the crowing of crows, as I mention elsewhere. The initial hurly burly was over once the reporters and photographers who had laid siege to the ashram had been successfully turned away.

This opened the way for one or two parked outside the ashram, waiting and beating their breast that their wrecked lives could only be repaired by Maharishi. They did get in, armed with cameras, and their "wrecked" lives were placed on the fast lane of enormous financial success. They made a killing hawking their Beatles experience in pictures and words.

Raghu Singh, on the other hand, never placed any value on the Beatles story. He didn't know who they were.

He precipitated the Mia

It is elementary that ideas and trends initiated in the West take time reaching the East. But the Beatles were the most prominent counter culture group seeking solace in Indian spiritualism away from the soullessness of Western materialism.

Farrow incident because he had decided, inside himself, that the story was over after the first burst of excitement.

Indeed, Raghu Singh's boss, Raghu Rai, who later evolved as the country's greatest photographer, never went back to the ashram after the first day when he took a historic shot of the Beatles clustered around the Maharishi in the shadow of a large tree. It was a world scoop. Raghu Rai never returned to the ashram because, he said, he "had no interest in the Beatles".

The reluctance of the austere news editor, R.N. Sharma, to let me have office transport to drive to Rishikesh indicated the same mindset. It was only the encouragement I received from Desmond Doig who, along with his bevy of boys, edited a

cult youth magazine, *Junior Statesman*, that the Beatles assignment was sustained for weeks. It is, of course, a pity that files of the *JS* with price-less pictorial coverage of happenings at the ashram appear to have been mysteriously lost. These include a picture of John Lennon virtually sitting on the Maharishi's lap in a cramped helicopter commandeered from Khambatta Airways for a joyride over the Himalayas. This trip led to some security issues that were raised with the Maharishi.

It is elementary that ideas and trends initiated in the West take time reaching the East. But the Beatles were the most prominent counter culture group seeking solace in Indian spiritualism, away from the soullessness of Western materialism.

They were a continuation of a trend inaugurated by the Beat generation in the 1950s. Remember Allen Ginsberg's extended sojourn in Varanasi, expressing despair: "America, I've given you all and now I'm nothing./ Your machinery is too much for me./ You made me want to be a saint."

The writer is a senior journalist and commentator based in New Delhi

Theresa May must lead or quit



James Forsyth

The Brexit "Inner Cabinet" met last week. It was meant to be an important meeting, one which made some real progress on deciding what kind of economic relationship with the EU the UK is seeking. Senior civil servants had been told that the crucial topic of the Irish border would be on the agenda. This is one of the hardest parts of the Brexit equation to solve, and the answer will reveal plenty about the kind of trade deal the UK is seeking and the trade-offs it is prepared to make.

But when the agenda for the meeting was circulated the previous night, Ireland was not there. This left only data and security — the two least controversial of the nine questions that the Brexit Cabinet is meant to address. As one member remarked to me afterwards: "We didn't do the contentious stuff today."

This fits a pattern. Prime Minister Theresa May has become so frightened of putting a foot wrong that she's now extremely reluctant to confront any controversial issue. This is an exceedingly dangerous position for a Prime Minister. You can't lead if you can't make decisions. Her timidity has been exacerbated by the election. Her unusually bold call to go to the country four years early blew up in her face and as a result, she is more cautious than ever — at exactly the time when her country needs her to be most decisive.

Since the debacle of the last majority, Conservatives have mostly refrained from complaining. Ms May was needed to keep the party together and her departure would have triggered a fratricidal civil war; she had to stay in place to get over the first hurdle of the Brexit talks. But Tory patience

is running out. One member of the Brexit Inner Cabinet has taken to warning people that the government's Brexit policy-making "looks worse from the inside than the outside".

The Prime Minister is either unwilling or unable to tackle the single biggest question facing the country: what will the "end-state" relationship with the EU look like? We have barely more detail now than when she delivered her Lancaster House speech more than a year ago. Is this because Ms May doesn't dare to be specific, as she knows she'll disappoint — at the very least — one wing of her party? Or because she can't decide? Tories who complain that civil servants have captured the process are aiming at the wrong target. They are only filling a vacuum where the political leadership ought to be.

Ms May must set out, in some detail, the kind of trade deal she is aiming for, and it was assumed until recently that she'd do it this month. But No. 10 now says that the only Brexit-related speech planned is one she'll deliver at the Munich Security Conference. This must change. If Ms May can't give a speech setting out what the UK wants, she can't lead.

What makes this so frustrating is that there are now signs that the EU governments are prepared to engage constructively; there is far less of a desire to "punish" Britain than in the immediate aftermath of the vote. The Belgians, normally among the more theological EU members, have, pragmatically, come out for a supercharged trade deal: "Canada ++" in the jargon. The Italians have declared that it is "completely unrealistic" to exclude financial services from the deal. But there's no detailed UK proposal on how they should be included that the Italians, or anyone else, can rally around.

Ms May's trip to Davos was another missed opportunity. When she had the world's attention she could have set out the UK's stall and urged global business to lobby the EU to engage constructively with

Theresa May's trip to Davos was another missed opportunity. When she had the world's attention she could have set out the UK's stall and urged global business to lobby the EU to engage constructively with these proposals.

these proposals. She could have used her speech to sell Brexit Britain as a great place to do business, setting out the opportunities that there will be once this country is outside the EU. But instead she reached into her back catalogue and scolded the technology companies.

When Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel expresses her frustration that Ms May won't say what the UK wants, she is only saying what many ministers are thinking.

Britain is the country that is leaving and so the onus is on us to make clear what kind of relationship we're now looking for. If, as Philip Hammond says, the Brexit negotiations are like a courtship, it is past time for the UK to declare its intentions.

It isn't just European leaders who want Ms May to say more: her own cabinet does too. One minister tells me that the current uncertainty "is driving us all mad". There is a desire just to see a decision made, for Ms May to lead. As this source puts it: "The making of the decision would be incredibly helpful" as it would allow departments to start planning for Brexit properly and for the Tories to start honing the political argument for the deal Ms May wants.

So far, the consensus has been that however bad the May premiership is, trying to change horses would be worse. One of those frequently tipped for the top job if Ms May goes says that a leadership contest would be "like the Grand National — utter chaos, and no one will know who will come through in the end".

Both sides of the Tory tribe

took this view. Remainers saw her as preferable to the hard-line Brexiteer who would likely succeed her, and Leavers thought she would get the job done. But that sense is slipping. As one denizen of the tea-room puts it: "The Brexiteers who were holding on to her for fear of something worse aren't as motivated." This is partly why those MPs publicly criticising Ms May have had so little pushback. Tories who have gone public with their criticisms of her are not being shunned in the way that those who tried to move against her after party conference were.

Then there is what one cabinet minister calls "the JRM question". Since Jacob Rees-Mogg became leader of the European Research Group, the most powerful Tory eurosceptic lobby, its tone towards the government has changed quite markedly. It has become far more critical. This is loosening the bonds that tied the Eurosceptics to Ms May. Just as importantly, it is making Tory MPs who voted Remain more willing to criticise the PM publicly. The Rees-Mogg broadsides give them cover to do so without looking like they are somehow trying to frustrate Brexit.

There is still time for her to change. To realise that she is stronger in relation to her cabinet than she realises. If Ms May announced that she had come to a series of decisions on the UK's negotiating position, her audacity would carry the day. Leadership would bring its own reward.

After that, she needs an idea of the kind of country she wants Britain to be, because the government's shrunken domestic programme offers no vision at all. Ms May's defenders advance two reasons for this. Brexit is all-consuming, they say. But Brexit also requires this country to think afresh about how it will make its way in the world. The last election went so wrong for the Tories, in part, because Ms May thought Brexit was enough. It is not. Voters look for a leader with ideas — and worry when they find none. Brexit ought to provide a stim-

ulus for domestic policy reform in much the way that the nation-defining events of the 20th century did.

The second argument from May's apologists is that a hung Parliament makes radical legislation nigh-on impossible. But this confuses law-making with governing: plenty can be done without legislation. If Ms May embraced Jeremy Hunt's idea of a 10-year funding settlement for the National Health Service it wouldn't need its own bill; it could simply be done via the budget each year. This would put the Tories on the front foot rather than cowering in the corner as Labour attacks. The Tories should not be afraid to dare Labour to vote legislation down. Would Mr Corbyn really whip his MPs to vote against a bill to ensure that planning permissions are lost if developers don't build houses quickly enough?

Things are not critical yet. But they will be soon. In a few months, Ms May will take her party into local elections and if she leads them into a series of historic defeats there will be a reckoning. Those pressing to act against her are now convinced that losses in these elections — expected to be steep in London and Birmingham — will offer the best chance to garner enough signatures for a no-confidence vote. The opinion polls suggest the Tories are level pegging with Labour; the actual elections could suggest that they are heading for disaster.

What should worry No. 10 most about the past ten days is how many level-headed Tory MPs are beginning to think it is worth rolling the dice; that while a change of leader might be messy, things can hardly be worse than they are now. This is not mutiny, as such, it's something more powerful: a growing conviction that this drift can't go on and that it's their job, as MPs, to ensure their party and country is given that direction. Ms May can either provide that leadership herself — or lose her grip on the party and on power.

By arrangement with the Spectator



Swami Chaitanya Keerti

Observe and awaken your intelligence

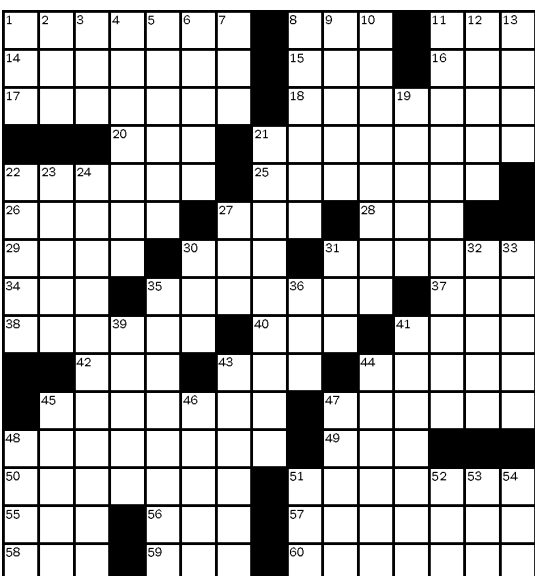
The journey of our life seems to be a very strange journey, which begins in deep unconsciousness as a new born child who does not know why the birth has happened. For his existence and his survival, the child is utterly dependent on the people who look after him and teach him to live their own particular way. The child himself does not know what is the right way. What is being taught to him in, becomes the right way of living. Society around him does not allow his own intelligence to unfold or grow and he becomes fully burdened with a certain conditioning imposed by the people surrounding him. This becomes a long journey of social conditioning, an imitation and a borrowed life.

It is the role of an enlightened master, a Sadguru, if we are fortunate to come across in our life, to guide us to awaken our inner intelligence and remind us of our true self. With him it becomes a new journey of awakening, realising our potential on the path of meditation. Ordinarily, within us we have two currents — one is of thoughts, which is very dominant. The other current, which we rarely feel, is the current of watchfulness. The enlightened master Osho tells us the distinction. An ordinary man has one current of thought within him, the watcher is asleep; the meditator has two parallel currents within him, thought and watching. Within an enlightened person only one current remains, that is watching. Thinking has died. But because you have to learn watching from a state of thinking, you will have to meditate on thought and watching side by side. If we have to move from thought to watching, we will have to meditate on thought and watching simultaneously. Osho calls it right-observation or right-remembrance. Mahavira has called it 'wakeful intelligence'; mindfulness and wakeful intelligence. The one who is watching the thoughts is your wakeful intelligence. It is very easy to find thinkers, but it is difficult to find someone whose intelligence is awake. Awaken your intelligence. I have told you how to awaken it — by watching your thoughts with awareness. If you watch the actions of the body, the body will disappear; if you watch your racing thoughts, the thought process, then the thoughts will disappear; and if you observe your emotions closely, then the emotions will disappear. I have said that for the purification of emotions, allow love to come in place of hatred and friendship in place of enmity. Now I tell you to also be aware of this truth: there is a dimension behind the one who is loving and the one who is hating, which is just awareness — which neither loves nor hates. It is simply a witness. It sometimes watches hatred and sometimes watches love happening, but it is simply watching.

The writer, editor of Osho World, is the author of Mindfulness: The Master Key



THE NYT CROSSWORD



PUZZLE BY DAN SCHOENHOLZ

ACROSS

- 1, for 45°
- 8 Spotlight hog
- 11 Circuit
- 14 Radio component
- 15 1961 Literature Nobel
- 16 Words of homage
- 17*First Supreme Court chief justice
- 18 Bungalows
- 20 Conciliatory offering
- 21*It's west of Okinawa
- 22 Johnny who sang on the duet "Too Much, Too Little, Too Late"
- 25 Beverage that contains taurine
- 26 Part of a stage
- 27 Bluejacket

- 28 Draft choice
- 29 Still competing
- 30 Show
- 31 The Wildcats of the Big 12 Conference, informally
- 34 Bank statement abbreviation
- 35*Sort with a full schedule
- 37 Essen article
- 38 Respectful greeting
- 40 gun (sci-fi weapon)
- 41 Paraphernalia
- 42 Cougar prey
- 43 Medication-regulating org.
- 44 "I've seen ____"
- 45 Visa problem
- 47 Obeyed an order at the dentist's
- 48 "Oil, jocularly
- 49 Neighbor of Ky.
- 50 Generally

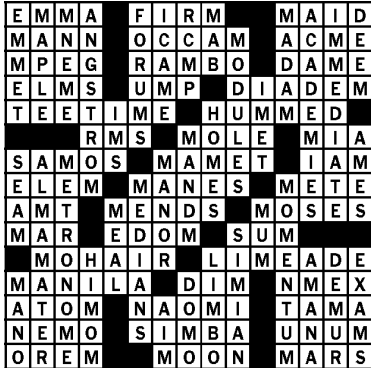
- 51 "I don't care either way"
- 55 Baseball great Hodges
- 56 Sign of summer
- 57 Kitchen tools
- 58 Numbskull
- 59 "Yikes!"
- 60 Reachable

DOWN

- 1 Express (train from Delhi to Agra)
- 2 Latin lover's word
- 3 Kind of root in math
- 4 Crime show
- 5 Legally prohibit
- 6 Occurrences during half-moons
- 7 Test
- 8 Word before calling or learning
- 9 Circumvent
- 10 Hypothetical settlement

- 11 Big bargains, maybe
- 12 Challenge to
- 13 Hip-hop's Salt-N-____
- 19 Crack in the crust
- 21 Surprisingly, it just might work
- 22 Octet in "The 12 Days of Christmas"
- 23 Breathing problem
- 24 Jumps rarely attempted in women's figure skating
- 27 Christmas song contraction
- 30 Depress, with "out"
- 31 Knowledge
- 32 Rib
- 33 Made a faux pas
- 35 Common fund-raiser
- 36 Diva's accessory
- 39 Place where one is encouraged to swear?
- 41 Ski slope sight
- 43 "How ya holdin' up?"
- 44 Perpetual period in Narnia in "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"

- 45 ____ Stadium, home of the 49ers
- 46 N.J. city on the Hudson
- 47 Grow red, say
- 48 ____ party
- 51 Longtime news inits.
- 52 Currency adopted after the Meiji Restoration
- 53 ____ chart
- 54 Exploit





Ecuador votes bar on presidential re-election in blow to ex-leader Rafael Correa who had been eyeing a comeback in 2021

Myanmar faces a very serious crisis — with a potentially severe impact on the security of the region — Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

IN BRIEF
23 killed in DR Congo ethnic clash

Kinshasa: At least 23 members of the Hema ethnic group were killed since Friday in renewed violence in Democratic Republic of Congo's Ituri province, a leader of the group said in a statement on Monday. A high-ranking provincial official, who did not wish to be named confirmed the toll since Friday and added that 10 fighters from the Lendu, a rival ethnic group, had died.

Planets beyond Milky Way found

Washington: Astrophysicists have for the first time discovered a population of planets beyond the Milky Way, using data from NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory. Researchers at University of Oklahoma used microlensing to detect the objects in extragalactic galaxies that range from mass of Moon to mass of Jupiter. Microlensing uses light bent by gravity itself to detect planets.

Boko Haram kills 2, military gets control

Maiduguri: Boko Haram fighters stormed a village in Nigeria and killed two people as military said the jihadists were defeated. The attack happened on Sunday evening at Alau-Kofa village, some 12 km from Borno state capital, Maiduguri. "Boko Haram came to our village last night at about 8 pm firing guns and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs)," Bulama Bukar, who lives in Alau-Kofa said. "Two people were burnt alive and the village was burnt, along with our food." Bukar said the jihadists "came to steal cattle" but abandoned the plan when soldiers arrived.

ARMS REDUCTION

Russia reminded of N-arsenal deal

■ It's time for Russia to exchange data: US

Washington, Feb. 5: The United States, which just unveiled a new aggressive nuclear strategy, has met the limits set on its arsenal under the New START Treaty, which enters a new phase on Monday, and reminded Russia to uphold its commitments. The strategic arms reduction treaty was signed by Washington and Moscow in 2010, and took effect in February 2011.

It calls for the gradual reduction over 10 years of the number of nuclear warheads held by both sides, limits on the number of delivery systems, a strict verification regime and data exchanges.

"The US and Russia have implemented the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START Treaty) for seven years," the State Department said in a statement.

"February 5, 2018 marks the date that the treaty's central limits on each country's strategic nuclear arsenal take effect."

Washington said it had already fulfilled its commitments by August 2017, said the statement issued by department spokeswoman Heather

■ **THE NEW START Treaty signed by US and Russia in 2010, calls for gradual reduction of nuclear warheads over 10 yrs**

■ **FEBRUARY 5, 2018 marks the date the treaty's central limits on each country's strategic nuclear arsenal take effect**

Nauert. Russia has "repeatedly stated its commitment" to the treaty, including meeting the central limits, and we expect our upcoming data exchange under the treaty to reaffirm that commitment."

On Thursday, Nauert had said that Washington had "no reason to believe" that Russia would not meet its goals.

"Within the next month or so, both countries will exchange their data under the strategic nuclear arsenals, as we have done bilaterally under the treaty's terms for the last seven years," she said.

"We hope each country will confirm the compliance of the other as soon as possible after this data exchange."

The beginning on Monday of the new 'central

limits" phase under the New START Treaty comes just days after the Pentagon announced its new nuclear policy.

According to Washington, Moscow is in the process of modernising its arsenal of 2,000 tactical nuclear weapons. Those efforts are not monitored by the New START Treaty, which only accounts for strategic weapons that serve as deterrents. The treaty was reached under the administration of Barack Obama

The State Department said today that implementation of the accord "enhances the safety and security of the United States and our allies and makes strategic relations between the United States and the Russian Federation more stable, transparent, and predictable."

US-Russia ties are strained at best, as the controversy over what US intelligence says was Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election drags on.

The State Department said adherence to the treaty was "critically important at a time when trust in the relationship has deteriorated, and the threat of miscalculation and misperception has risen."

— AFP



US President Donald Trump greets cheerleaders from Florida Atlantic University prior to a Super Bowl party at his golf club in Florida on Monday. — AFP



MOSCOW FROZEN

Snow covered Red Square with the Spasskaya Tower, left, and St. Basils Cathedral, right, after a snowstorm in Moscow, Russia on Monday. A weekend-long snowstorm in Moscow has delayed flights, cut power supplies to nearby villages and even prompted authorities to call a snow day, a highly unusual occurrence in the frost-resistant Russian capital. — AP

SAMSUNG HEIR SET FREE BY S.KOREA COURT

Seoul, Feb. 5: A South Korean appeals court on Monday dismissed most of Samsung heir Lee Jae-Yong's bribery convictions and cut his prison sentence to a suspended term, ordering his immediate release.

Judges said Lee, vice chairman of the world's biggest smartphone and memory chip maker Samsung Electronics, had been forced to offer bribes to then-president Park Geun-Hye and her close confidante.

Samsung Electronics, which last week reported record profits, is the flagship subsidiary of the giant Samsung group, by far the biggest of the family-controlled conglomerates known as chaebols that dominate Asia's fourth-largest economy. The chaebols played key roles in the South's dramatic economic growth, but have long had close and sometimes murky ties with political authorities.

Commentators said Monday's decision was in keeping with past lenient legal treatment of their leaders. At his original trial Lee, 49, was convicted of a range of offences, including bribery, embezzlement, money laundering and perjury in parliament.

— PTI

Emergency declared in Maldives for 15 days

Male, Feb. 5 The political crisis in the Maldives deepened on Monday with a local news organisation Rajje TV saying that the country has declared an emergency for 15 days.

Earlier in the day, sources within the Maldivian Supreme Court sought the intervention of India and other nations to ensure that the "rule of law" is upheld in the country, news reports said.

The Maldives government had declared that it would not comply with a Supreme Court order on February 1 to release nine Opposition MPs and said any attempt to impeach or arrest President Abdulla Yameen would be illegal.

The court had also ordered the reinstatement

■ **SOURCES WITHIN Maldivian Supreme Court sought the intervention of India to uphold 'rule of law'**

■ **REPORTS said the SC judges may be sacked**

of 12 lawmakers who had been stripped of their Parliamentary seats by Yameen's party for "defecting" in 2017, saying their removal was unconstitutional, Reuters reported.

The reinstatement of the dozen legislators, who now belong to opposition parties, would have caused Yameen's party to lose its majority in the 85-

member parliament.

Media reports said that Yameen was looking to sack the judges of the Supreme Court, including Chief Justice Abdulla Saeed. The Ministry of External Affairs in India had earlier stated that it was looking for a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

Apart from India, the UN, Britain, Canada, Australia, and the United States have hailed the Supreme Court order as a move towards democracy in the politically troubled climate of the country.

Meanwhile, the nation which relies heavily on tourists from China got a setback when China warned its citizens not to travel to the country for holidays.

POPE GIVES PEACE MEDALLION TO ERDOGAN



Vatican City, Feb. 5: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met Pope Francis on Monday while police enforced a protest ban in central Rome as feelings run high over Turkey's offensive against Kurdish militia inside Syria.

During the 50-minute audience, Pope Francis gave Erdogan a medallion embossed with an

angel strangling a "demon of war" — a symbol of peace and justice.

For the first visit by a Turkish leader for 59 years, the Italian authorities have imposed a 24-hour ban on demonstrations which covers Erdogan's arrival from late Sunday to his departure on Monday evening. — AFP

Meditation unlikely to make you a better person

■ **Study finds improvements reported earlier by psychologists may be biased**



It plays no significant role in reducing aggression or improving how socially-connected someone was.

London, Feb. 5: Meditation has limited role in making you a better person, scientists said on Monday, contradicting the popular belief that meditation can change how we behave towards others and make us more compassionate.

Scientists, including those at Coventry University in the UK, reviewed more than 20 studies that investigated the effect of various types of meditation, such as mindfulness and loving-kindness, on pro-social feelings and behaviours.

Initial analysis indicated that meditation did have an overall positive impact.

The researchers said meditation made people feel moderately more compassionate or empathic, compared to if they had done no other new emotionally-engaging activity.

However, further analysis revealed that it played no significant role in reducing aggression or prejudice or

■ **RESEARCHERS found that meditation played no significant role in reducing aggression or prejudice or improving how socially-connected someone was.**

improving how socially-connected someone was. The most unexpected result of the study, though, was that the more positive results found for compassion had important methodological flaws, researchers said.

Compassion levels in some studies only increased if the meditation teacher was also an author of the published report, they said.

These results suggest that the moderate improvements reported by psychologists in previous studies may be the result of methodological weaknesses and biases, according to researchers. — PTI

PARIS ATTACKS SUSPECT REFUSES TO COOPERATE

Brussels, Feb. 5: The only surviving suspect in the 2015 Paris attacks, Salah Abdeslam, refused to answer questions on Monday as he went on trial in Brussels over a bloody shootout with police that led to his capture.

Tight security surrounded the start of the trial of the 28-year-old, who was transferred overnight from a jail near Paris and arriving in Belgium in a convoy of police vehicles.

Abdeslam, who has declined to speak to investigators since his arrest in March 2016, immediately signalled his defiance on Monday by refusing to stand when asked by the judge and saying he would not cooperate.

"I do not wish to answer any questions," Abdeslam, bearded and wearing a long-sleeved white polo shirt, said when the presiding judge, Marie-France Keutgen, asked him to confirm his identity.

The judge told the court that Abdeslam has also refused to have photos or video taken of him during the four-day trial in Brussels.

The Belgian-born French national of Moroccan descent faces charges of attempted terrorist murder of cops and carrying banned weapons over a gunbattle in the Forest district of Brussels on March 15, 2016. Three cops were wounded and a jihadist was killed in the fight. — AFP

Sherin's law gains momentum in US

Houston, Feb. 5: Efforts to have a new law in the US state of Texas which would make it a felony to leave a child alone at home is gathering steam and has won the support of a lawmaker in whose constituency three-year-old Sherin Mathews was found dead in a culvert, a media report said.

The decomposed body of Sherin was found in Richardson city in suburban Dallas on October 22, over two weeks after she was reported missing by her Indian-American foster father, Wesley Mathews.

The proposed 'Sherin's Law' will make it a felony to leave a child at home alone, US media reports quoted activists involved in the move as saying.

Linda Koop, the Republican lawmaker from Dallas, is working with the two activists



on the proposed legislation, *The Dallas Morning News* reported.

Ms Koop said she hopes to find ways to make the law simple, but impactful so it can be passed as soon as early next year.

"Little Sherin was killed in a part of my district," Koop said. "There's a lot of healing that needs to be done, but there is also a law that needs to be passed," she added.

Two Texas women activists, Reena Bana and Shanna Potet Rivera, said they hope their proposed legislation which they

■ **THE NEW LAW proposes to make it a felony to leave a child alone at home.**

■ **A REPUBLICAN lawmaker is working with activists to make the law simple and pass it next year**

call "Sherin's Law" will prevent deaths like Sherin's. Authorities say Sherin, who was adopted by the Indian-American couple, Wesley and Sini Mathews, died of "homicidal violence." — PTI

PARADIP PORT TRUST CORRIGENDUM


To E-Tender Call Notice No. EN/MMP/PE/59/2017/1901TORG, Dtd. 06.01.2018 for Supply of Copper Cable.

The due date of submission of Tender & opening of Technical Bid is hereby further extended as below. (1) Last Date of submission of tender upto 5.00 PM of 19.02.2018. (2) Opening of Technical Bid at 3.30PM of 21.02.2018. All other terms & conditions in the original tender remained unaltered. For details, log on to our website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> or contact the office of the undersigned. Sr. Dy. Materials Manager PPT/PR/743/17-18 Dt. 05.02.2018

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION (CHENNAI) LIMITED, PALLAVAN ILLAM, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI-600 002.		
TENDER NOTICE		
TENDER INVITED FOR PROCUREMENT OF AUTOMOBILE SPARES ON BEHALF OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR:		
Description	E.M.D.Amount for each item	
1.Radiator coolant 2.Air suspension spares & assy 3.Propeller shaft spares & assy (Tata) 4.Bearings (Leyland) 5.Filters (Tata) 6.Filters (Leyland) 7.Propeller shaft spares & assy (Leyland)	Rs.10,000/-	
Sale of Tender Documents	From 05.02.2018	
Last date of submission of tender	upto 02.30 p.m	21.02.2018 for SI.No 1 to 5, 07.03.2018 for SI.No 6&7.
Date of opening	03.00 p.m on	21.02.2018 for SI.No 1 to 5, 07.03.2018 for SI.No 6&7.
For further details http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in		
MANAGING DIRECTOR		

TENDERS / NOTICES

Government of Kerala	
TENDER	
FOREST & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT	
Window No:prid 18/e 89 • Tender No. KNC1-370/18 • Divisional Forest Officer, Konni Forest Division, Konni-689691. Phone-0468-2242233 • e-auction of teak timber and teak billets collected from Nadvathummoorhi range of Konni Forest Division on 23.2.2018 • EMD : 50,000/- • PAC : 50 Lakhs	
Window No:prid 18/e 90 • Tender No. KNC1-404/18 • Divisional Forest Officer, Konni Forest Division, Konni-689691. Phone-0468-2242233 • e-auction of teak timber and teak billets collected from Nadvathummoorhi range of Konni Forest Division on 28.2.2018 • EMD : 50,000/- • PAC : 50 Lakhs	
Window No:prid 18/e 91 • Tender No. A2-2467/2017 • Divisional Forest Officer, Timber Sales Division, Perumbavoor, Muthikkal P.O.-683547. Phone-0484-2522219 • e-auction sales of various timbers at various depots of Perumbavoor Timber Sales Division on 3.3.2018, 15.3.2018, 23.3.2018 & 31.3.2018 • PAC : 4 Crore	
Full details on Tender Advertisement appeared above are exhibited before the Office from which the tender originates for details on all Tenders above please visit www.kerala.gov.in/tenders/index.htm Please put in search the Window No for getting the advertisement of your choice. R.O.No.28/612/015/2017	



GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

KODAVASAL TOWN PANCHAYAT, TIRUVARUR DISTRICT

CAPITAL GRANT FUND 2017-2018

TENDER NOTICE

Letter No. 454 / 2017 / A1

Dated : 29.01.2018

Form of contract: Item rate (Two cover system)

Bids are invited in package for the Improvement of Bus Stand by Tender Inviting Authority Executive officer, Kodavasal Town Panchayat, Tiruvavur District under the CAPITAL GRANT FUND 2017-18

1. The bid documents will be available from 01.02.2018 The bid document can also be downloaded from the website <https://tenders.gov.in> and <http://twpnpanchayat.tn.gov.in/tender> upto 3.00 pm on 28.02.2018. Online submission of tender will also be accepted. 2. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit will be 1% of the value put to tender for a package. 3. Period of contract is 12 months 4. Any additional / further details and conditions related to these works can be obtained from the office of the respective Executive Officers Kodavasal Town Panchayat, Tiruvavur District. 5. Important dates

1. Date and times of Pre bid meeting 15.02.2018 at 11.00 am 2. Last date and time for downloading bid documents 28.02.2018 at 3.00 pm 3. Last Date and time for submission of bid document, including online submission 28.02.2018 at 3.00 pm 4. Date and time of opening of the Technical Bid 28.02.2018 at 3.30 pm 6. In the event of the specified date for submission of bids being declared a holiday, bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. 7. Other details can be seen in the bid documents. 8. Work details

Package No.	Name of the Work	Value put to tender (in Rs.)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)	Schedule Cost (in Rs.)
1	Improvement of Bus Stand	1,60,00,000/-	1,60,000/-	16,800/-

Executive officer (i/c)

DIPR / 487 / TENDER / 2018

Kodavasal Town Panchayat Tiruvavur District

MAHATRANSCO	
MAHARASHTRA STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LTD.	
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)	
(LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)	
SRM e-Tender No. T-1808 / MSETCL / CO / DC&M / D&T / SS-Pretender (RFx No. 6000000454)	
MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work on turnkey basis as detailed below.	
Establishment of 220/132/33 kV substation at Karanja on turnkey basis under Nagpur Zone.	
Interested bidders may obtain further information available on website https://srmetender.mahatransco.in	
The date of downloading of Bid documents is available on website from 02.02.2018	
Chief Engineer (DC&M), MSETCL	

IN BRIEF



Brain 'tickling' can boost memory, says study

Washington: Tickling the brain with low-intensity electrical stimulation in a specific area can improve verbal memory, a study has found.

Researchers found word recall was enhanced with stimulation of the brain's lateral temporal cortex, the regions on the sides of the head by the temples and ears.

Patients recalled more words from a previously viewed list when low-amplitude electrical stimulation was delivered to the brain. "The most exciting finding of this research is that our memory for language information can be improved by directly stimulating this underexplored brain area," said Michal Kuciewicz, a researcher at Mayo Clinic in the US. Memory impairments are a prevalent, costly problem in many brain diseases. Medication and behavioral therapies have limited effectiveness in many cases.

"While electrical stimulation of the brain is emerging as potential therapy for a wide range of neurological and psychiatric diseases, little is known about its effect on memory," said Gregory Worrell, senior author of the study published in the journal *Brain*.

"The next step for this project is to determine how to best apply electrical current in terms of the exact location within this area of the brain, timing and parameters of stimulation," said Brent Berry, researcher at the Mayo Clinic.

Researchers focused their study on four areas of the brain known to support memory for facts and events that can be consciously recalled.

The memory testing was done with patients undergoing evaluation for surgery to address seizures. These patients agreed to have their memory investigated using the electrodes implanted in their brains for surgical evaluation. — PTI

UK delegation to focus on innovation in healthcare

New Delhi: A delegation of 13 top British healthcare providers, suppliers, and other field experts will be in India as part of a trade mission from February 4-8, officials today said.

The mission would travel to Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad, while also participating in the inaugural India-UK Createch Summit on February 6, the British High Commission said in a statement issued here.

"In the year that the UK's National Health Service (NHS) reaches its 70th anniversary, Healthcare UK and the Department for International Trade are bringing a delegation of 13 top British healthcare providers, suppliers, hospitals and trusts in a trade mission to India from February 4-8," it said.

The delegation would be led by Sir Malcolm Grant, Chairman of NHS England, it added. "The mission will focus on innovation in healthcare, and address the changing needs of medical provision as disruptive technologies such as artificial intelligence, wearable sensors, and virtual reality become increasingly commonplace," the statement said.

The delegates will demonstrate to Indian healthcare leaders how they can help meet key concerns around driving efficiencies in costs, increasing patient access in remote areas, and providing more personalised healthcare solutions through new technology, it added.

In Delhi, the mission would attend a 'Future of Healthcare' event. — PTI

Augmented reality tech helps surgeons 'see through' the body

■ In a series of procedures by a team from the UK, researchers showed that how surgeons can use augmented reality headsets while operating on patients undergoing reconstructive lower limb surgery. Researchers used Microsoft HoloLens that immerses the wearer in 'mixed reality'.



London, Feb. 4: Augmented reality headsets can help doctors 'see through' organs and tissues in the operating theatre, and improve the outcome of reconstructive surgery for patients, a study has found.

In a series of procedures carried out by a team from the Imperial College London in the UK, researchers showed that for the first time how surgeons can use augmented reality headsets while operating on patients undergoing reconstructive lower limb surgery.

Researchers used Microsoft HoloLens — a computer headset that immerses the wearer in 'mixed reality', enabling them to interact with holograms or computer-generated objects made visible through the visor. The team used the tech-

nology to overlay images of CT scans — including the position of bones and key blood vessels — onto each patient's leg, in effect enabling the surgeon to 'see through' the limb during surgery.

According to the team trialling the technology, the approach can help surgeons locate and reconnect key blood vessels during reconstructive surgery, which could improve outcomes for patients.

"We are one of the first groups in the world to use the HoloLens successfully in the operating theatre," said Philip Pratt, a research fellow at Imperial College London.

"Through this initial series of patient cases we have shown that the technology is practical, and that it can provide a benefit to the surgical team," said Pratt, lead author of the

study published in the journal *European Radiology Experimental*.

"With the HoloLens, you look at the leg and essentially see inside of it. You see the bones, the course of the blood vessels, and can identify exactly where the targets are located," said Pratt.

Following a car accident or severe trauma, patients may have tissue damage or open wounds that require reconstructive surgery using fasciocutaneous flaps.

These flaps of tissue, which are taken from elsewhere on the body and include the skin and blood vessels, are used to cover the wound and enable it to close and heal properly.

A vital step in the process is connecting the blood vessels of the 'new' tissue with those at the site of the wound, so oxygenated

blood can reach the new tissue and keep it alive.

The standard approach for this element of reconstructive surgery has been the use of a handheld scanner which uses ultrasound to identify blood vessels under the skin by detecting the movement of blood pulsing through them, enabling the surgeon to approximate where the vessels are and their course through the tissue.

"Augmented reality offers a new way to find these blood vessels under the skin accurately and quickly by overlaying scan images onto the patient during the operation," said Pratt.

In the procedures used to trial the technology, five patients requiring reconstructive surgery on their legs underwent CT scans to map the structure of the limb, including the position of bones and the location and course of blood vessels.

Images from the scans were then segmented into bone, muscle, fatty tissue and blood vessels and loaded into intermediary software to create 3D models of the leg.

These models were then fed into specially designed software that renders the images for the headset, which in turn overlays the model onto what the surgeon can see in the operating theatre.

Clinical staff are able to manipulate these AR images through hand gestures to make any fine adjustments and correctly line up the model with surgical landmarks on the patient's limbs, such as the knee joint or ankle bone.

— PTI



Crash diets may harm heart's ability to pump blood: Study

London, Feb. 4: Crash diets — that involve drastically cutting calorie consumption for a few weeks — may harm heart function and ₹100 reduce the organ's ability to pump blood, an Oxford study has found.

Patients with heart disease should seek medical advice before adopting a very low calorie diet, researchers suggest.

"Crash diets, also called meal replacement programmes, have become increasingly fashionable in the past few years," said Jennifer Rayner from University of Oxford in the UK.

"These diets have a very low calorie content of 600 to 800 kilocalories per day and can be effective for losing weight, reducing blood pressure, and reversing diabetes," she said. "But the effects on the heart have not been studied until now," she added.

The study used magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to investigate the impact of a very low calorie diet on heart function and the distribution of fat in the abdomen, liver, and heart muscle.

The study included 21 obese volunteers. The average age was 52 years, average body mass index (BMI) was 37 kilograms per square metre, and six were men.

Participants consumed a very low calorie diet of 600 to 800 kcal per day for eight weeks. MRI was performed at the start of the study and after one and eight weeks.

After one week, total body fat, visceral fat and liver fat had all significantly fallen by an average of 6 per cent, 11 per cent, and 42 per cent, respectively.

This was accompanied by significant improvements in insulin resistance, fasting total cholesterol, triglycerides, glucose and blood pressure.

However, after one week, heart fat content had risen by 44 per cent. This was associated with a deterioration in heart function, including the heart's ability to pump blood.

By eight weeks, heart fat content and function had improved

physical appearance, fitness levels, material and financial wealth, class, and status," said Sarah Wolfe, a researcher in Waterloo's Faculty of Environment.

"Pro-bottle water advertisements rely heavily on branding, celebrity, and feel-good emotions that trigger our group identities and patriotism," said Wolfe.

"If public and non-governmental organisations were interested in promoting the benefits of municipal drinking water systems, they're going to need to use new tactics that are emotionally stirring and speak to more than just the financial, ethical and environmental benefits of tap water," she said.

— PTI

Edible QR codes may lead to custom-made medicines

London, Feb. 4: Scientists have developed a way to print edible QR codes using drugs, paving the way for medicines that are tailor-made for a patient's needs.

For the last 100 years, researchers have constantly pushed the boundaries for our knowledge about medicine and how different bodies can respond differently to it.

However, the methods for the production of medicine have not yet moved itself away from mass production. Many who have a given illness get the same product with equal amount of an active compound.

Researchers from the University of Copenhagen in Denmark and Abo Akademi University in Finland have developed a new method for producing medicine.

They produce a white edible material, on which they print a QR code consisting of a medical drug.

A QR code is a two-dimensional barcode that contains machine-



readable information about the item to which it is attached.

"This technology is promising, because the medical drug can be used exactly the way you want it to. This gives an opportunity to tailor the medication according to the patient getting it," said Natalja Genina, Assistant Professor at University of Copenhagen.

The shape of a QR code also enables storage of data in the "pill" itself.

"Simply doing a quick scan, you can get all the information about the pharmaceutical product. In that sense it can potentially reduce cases of wrong medication and

fake medicine," said Genina.

The researchers hope that in the future a regular printer will be able to apply the medical drug in the pattern of a QR code, while the edible material will have to be produced in advance to allow on-demand production of medical drug near end-users.

"If we are successful with applying this production method to relatively simple printers, then it can enable the innovative production of personalised medicine and rethinking of the whole supply chain," said Jukka Rantanen from the University of Copenhagen. — PTI



Grape-derived compounds may help treat depression

Washington, Feb. 4: Natural compounds derived from grapes may help treat depression by targeting newly discovered underlying mechanisms of the disease, scientists say.

In a study to be published in the journal *Nature Communications*, scientists from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in the US described an extensive analysis of novel grape-derived compounds, dihydrocaffeic acid (DHCA) and malvidin-3'-O-glucoside (Mal-gluc), which might be developed as therapeutic agents for the treatment of depression.

Conventional pharmacological treatments for depression are estimated to produce temporary remission in less than 50 per cent of patients, and they are often associated with severe adverse effects.

There is an urgent need for a wider spectrum of novel therapeutics, researchers said.

Depression is associated with a multitude of pathological processes.

These include inflammation of the peripheral immune system which protect against disease and abnormalities involving synapses, the structures that permit neurons to pass an electrical or chemical signal to other neurons.

However, currently available antidepressants are largely restricted to targeting the systems that regulate serotonin, dopamine, and other related neurotransmitters, and these treatments do

► **Conventional pharmacological treatments for depression are estimated to produce temporary remission in less than 50 per cent of patients**

not specifically address inflammation and synaptic maladaptations.

Previous research has found that grape-derived polyphenols have some efficacy in modulating aspects of depression, yet the mechanisms of action had largely remained unknown until now.

Researchers found that a bioactive dietary polyphenol preparation — a combination of three grape-derived polyphenol products, including a select Concord grape juice, a select grape seed extract, and trans-resveratrol — was effective in promoting resilience against stress-induced depression in mice.

They found that DHCA and Mal-gluc can promote resilience in mouse models of depression by modulating inflammation and synaptic plasticity, respectively.

Researchers also demonstrated that DHCA/Mal-gluc treatment was effective in attenuating depression-like phenotypes in a mouse model of increased systemic inflammation induced by transplantation of cells from the bone marrow of stress-susceptible mice.

This study strongly supports the need to test and identify novel compounds. — PTI

'Fear of death drives up bottled-water sales'

Toronto, Feb. 4: The fear of dying drives people to buy bottled water, despite knowing that it may not be good for them or the planet, scientists say.

The study suggests that most bottled-water advertising campaigns target a deep psychological vulnerability in humans, compelling them to buy and consume particular products.

"Bottled water advertisements play on our greatest fears in two important ways," said Stephanie Cote, who conducted the research as a graduate student at the University of Waterloo in Canada.

"Our mortality fears make us want to avoid risks and, for many people, bottled water seems



safer somehow, purer or controlled," said Cote.

"There is also a deeper subconscious force at work here, one that caters to our desire for immortality," she said.

The study used social psychology's Terror Management Theory (TMT) as its framework. TMT researchers argue that people's efforts to

repress conscious and unconscious fear of death generates specific defences that influence behaviours such as consumption choices, the accumulation of wealth, and status security.

The research team analysed data drawn from the content of bottled water campaigns and advertisements, web-

► **The study suggests that most bottled-water ad campaigns target a deep psychological vulnerability in humans, compelling them to buy and consume particular products**

sites, photographs, and videos that revealed implicit and explicit meanings.

They also examined how anti-bottled water campaigns have trouble competing with corporate bottled water messaging.

"Our results demonstrate that corporate campaigns appeal to people who measure their personal value by their



OnePlus releases new Oxygen OS based on Android 8.0 Oreo, OP5 gets 5T's 'face unlock' feature

BRIEF

Vu launches Quantum 4K HDR TV



Vu Technologies launched a new Quantum Pixelight LED TV with 65-inches priced at ₹2.6 lakhs and 75-inches at ₹4 lakhs. The company claims that the Quantum Pixelight LED TV sports a picture quality with a combination of '4 Ultras' — Ultra HD, Ultra Color, Ultra Contrast along with Local dimming and Ultra Motion. It features Dolby surround audio effect through 55,000 sound holes and industrial metal design. The LED TV has 1000+ nits brightness and supports 4K streaming. The two TVs sport a Quantum Pixelight optical layer display with 1000+nits peak brightness and 4K pixel resolution with HDR. The TV uses Quantum Pixelight LED technology that focuses mainly on colour and contrast. The Vu Quantum Pixelight LED TV was showcased for the first time at a TEDx Pre event Dinner as it features the TED app available on its PremiumSmart operating system.

iBall budget laptop launched



There's an increasing demand of affordable and practical laptops in the market that are meant for basic computing purposes. While Chromebooks aren't an acquired taste in the country, there are many affordable Windows 10 laptops available in the market and iBall's CompBook Exemplaire+ has a slimmer profile like an ultrabook. It comes with a 14-inch display that renders pictures at a resolution of 1366x768 pixel resolution. The notebook is powered by an Intel quad core processor clocked up to a maximum speed of 1.92GHz, which is accompanied by 4GB of DDR3 RAM and 32GB of onboard storage. Users will be able to expand the storage up to 128GB via microSD card and slot in a maximum of 1TB optional HDD. The notebook utilises on Windows 10 as its operating system. The notebook is powered by a 10,000mAh battery, which the company claims to provide a power backup of approximately 8.5 hours.

Ziox launches Astra Star for ₹5,899



Ziox Mobiles, in partnership with Sun Airvoice, has released budget smartphone Astra Star priced at ₹5,899. The phone features a 5-inch FWVGA display with a 2.5D curved glass finish. The Astra Star is powered by a 1.3GHz quad-core processor and clubbed with 1GB of RAM. The phone sports a 5MP rear camera with flash, and a 2MP sensor up front for selfies. The storage supplied is 16GB which is expandable using a microSD by up to 32GB in total. Lastly, the phone is powered by a 2350mAh Li-ion battery and ships with Android Nougat. The Ziox Astra Star supports dual-SIM with 4G VoLTE and also features built-in 21 Indian languages.

Many have felt preferring devices instead of partners

Most Indians reportedly share passwords: Study

DC CORRESPONDENT

McAfee's latest "Three's Company: Lovers, Friends and Devices," is a yearly study and the findings a recent India study aims to understand the online behaviour of people and how it affects their real-world relationships with friends and significant others. The study underscores the need for individuals to manage device usage during social interactions and calls for vigilance while sharing personal information.

"In today's connected lifestyle, daily activities and interactions of consumers are powered by technology and apps. This insatiable dependency for technology can come at the price of sharing our personal information with the unknown. We need to be aware about the reality of oversharing and take corrective measures," said Venkat Krishnapur, Vice President of Engineering and Managing Director, McAfee.

Keep your devices close but your relationships even closer!

Love is in the air, and so are our connected devices. 77 per cent of the people in India think that the use of technology gets in the way of relationships today. Eighty one per cent of the people in India indicate that they got into an argument with a friend, family member or significant other for being on their phone too much when they spend time together. 70 per cent find it very (40



PHOTO: PIXABAY

per cent) or somewhat (30 per cent) important to disclose their relationship on social media. Dating apps make it easy to make connections on the go. More than half (58 per cent) think that dating apps/websites are more effective at helping people find a date than friends and family is.

Connected Devices > First Date

Three in four Indians (75 per cent) indicated that they have had to compete for the attention of their date with their device. The constant device usage actions don't halt after the first date. In fact, more than half (49 per cent) of adults (between 21-40 years) indicated that it happened even more than twice.

All is fair in love and tech

While most couples say vows to their significant other at the altar, many

consumers today are adapting this same level of commitment to their smartphones instead. Two in three Indians (67 per cent) in a relationship have felt that their significant other was more interested in their internet connected device than in them. When it comes to setting parameters around device usage, 32 per cent of Indians say they do not set rules about device usage when together. Only about one in five (20 per cent) claim that they set strict limitations about smart devices usage when with their partner. Nearly 45 per cent of Indians indicated that they have spied on their significant other's social media accounts or connected devices.

Sharing is Caring!

Though 89 per cent Indians think privacy is important in a relationship, 84 per cent also share their personal passwords

and PINs with their partners: Online shopping websites – 60 per cent Social media accounts – 45 per cent, Streaming services – 42 per cent, Personal email accounts – 41 per cent, Banking and financial services websites – 38 per cent, Work specific devices/accounts – 38 per cent. Shockingly only 16 per cent of the people indicate that they don't or wouldn't share any passwords or PINs with their significant other. Also, 39 per cent indicate that they would allow their significant other to use their work device(s) (e.g. laptop, smartphone, work email).

Protecting what matters the most

A total of 89 per cent indicate that they would be concerned if their partner didn't protect their personal information whereas 76 per cent take the necessary steps to ensure their personal

AIRBUS VAHANA: FLYING TAXI TAKES FLIGHT



PHOTO: VAHANA

A few months ago, Airbus had unveiled their Vahana concept — an autonomous flying taxi that was proclaimed to take over the urban skies by 2020. Fast forward to the first month of 2018 and their first prototype has already taken to the skies. Dubbed 'Alpha One', the aircraft was claimed to be airborne

autonomously. Alpha One took off and flew up to 16ft while staying up there for precisely 53 seconds before it landed safely. The Vahana team reported that the aircraft flew autonomously for its entire flight duration, proving that complete autonomous flights can make into reality very soon. Following the first

flight, the aircraft also did another test flight, although the figures for the second test flight haven't been given out yet. Airbus, A3 and Vahana are planning to test the prototype further for horizontal flight as well as transitioning between horizontal and vertical flight mid-air, all on its own.

WhatsApp scam dupes users' contacts

DC CORRESPONDENT

A new scam seems to have surfaced in Hong Kong where a group of people, hailing from Taiwan, seem to have conned several WhatsApp users by hijacking their accounts and sending out messages to their contacts. And under this scam, more than 60 people have been cheated in the past three months, reported Post.

The modus operandi is where gang members from Taiwan have been

sending a message to the Hong Kong victims' contact lists asking to transfer money or points cards for online games. This has been a loss to the victims, which totals to thousands of dollars in losses. More than 60 people have so far been duped out of hundreds of thousands of dollars over the past three months.

When the police took to investigating the case, it revealed that the cons acted as friends on chat and lured them into revealing their account's

verification codes before sending messages to people on their contact lists. It is also being suspected that the Facebook accounts of victims have been accessed to collect their information.

The victims also reportedly said that their WhatsApp accounts were disabled and had to be set up again. A verification code was sent out to the phones and the victims were asked to forward it to their contacts as well. A source from the police commented on this issue

to say, "Con artists accessed the WhatsApp accounts with the verification codes and they posed as the genuine users and sent text to people on the contact lists to deceive them. The account holders were unable to use WhatsApp for up to 12 hours after their accounts were hijacked."

These kinds of scams are not just restricted to Hong Kong but cons around the world are also targeting people through other messenger platforms like WeChat.

Now you can run iPad apps on your Mac soon

DC CORRESPONDENT

Apple usually rolls out a major iOS update every year across all its devices. The company is said to roll out most anticipated feature in this year's iOS update i.e. to bring an ability to run your iPad apps on your iMac.

According to a report by Bloomberg, "Apple is still on track to let you use iOS apps on your Mac with this new iOS 12 update."

After several issues in iOS 11 reported last year, Apple has decided to release a stable update this year focusing on the issues and performance, instead of adding new features. The company has done this previously on its iOS 9 update. iOS 11 update was a major overhaul last year which brought AR features and also native support to AR applications. Few of the major features like Files app and business-user enhancements for the iPad. Apple has decided to



PHOTO: PIXABAY

delay some key features originally planned for this fall's update, which include redesigned Home screen and revamping of Photos application. These features may come to life in the next year's iOS 13 update. The company has also delayed some of its iOS 11 updates announced last year such as synchronisation of texts with all Apple devices via iCloud and Apple Pay Cash trans-

fer within your contacts via iMessages. Regardless of these delays, Apple is planning to launch few new features such as an updated to FaceTime, monitoring your kid's app and allowing to run iPad apps on their Macs and iMacs. This allows users to have access to some of the productive apps which might run on their desktop iMacs' as well.

People spending less time on FB, Zuckerberg cool



DC CORRESPONDENT

Facebook is the place where the world is — that's what the common man in 2018 thinks about the social media platform, which is mostly true. People are spending more time on Facebook and other social media platforms instead of doing some fruitful activity in the real world.

While this meant good news for Facebook's business intentions, Founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg was unhappy about it and has since then worked on making Facebook more 'meaningful'. And, they already have achieved results.

In a recent Facebook post, Zuckerberg reached out to his followers and was happy to quote that their changes to Facebook's algorithms in the fourth quarter of 2017 bore fruits for the company. They axed down viral videos and other similar trending stuff in the four-month period. The result was that all of Facebook's members spent collectively 50 million lesser than

what was spent in the third quarter of 2017. Even North America showed a considerable decline in the number of active users.

The statistics portray a bad news for the company's business, but Zuckerberg is pretty happy about it. "By focusing on meaningful interactions, I expect the time we all spend on Facebook will be more valuable," wrote Mark Zuckerberg. Through the post, he makes it clear that Facebook will push for connecting more people in a more productive way instead of attracting them to stay for longer periods of time on the platform going through "passive content". He also lays stress on the fact that videos are the next big thing for Facebook's growth as a platform and they will be used in ways that help people connect with their friends through new experiences. Zuckerberg also said that Facebook is giving efforts to curb fake news, hate messages and other forms of abuse.

NEW PATENT TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH YOU EARN

DC CORRESPONDENT

If you are on Facebook, nothing is private anymore. Your feed portrays your interests, your friends' interests, photos, videos, news and vice versa. The content you explore on Facebook is your personal interest, but in the future, this might not be the thing. The company filed a patent, which is an "online service" that predicts your socio-economic status like how much you earn, what you own etc. Basically, what this service does is algorithmically predict its users' socio-economic status without knowing their incomes. It might sound scary, but to makes things worse, the content you will be watching on your Facebook timeline in the future will be based on your socio-economic status.

According to a patent application filed in the US last July, "the system will use classifiers to predict which socio-economic group users belong to. Such a system would allow Facebook to more accurately target users with content and advertising tailored to their social class," the company said. "The classifiers use models that are trained using features based on global information about a population of users such as demographic information, device ownership, internet usage, household data, and socio-economic status," Facebook's patent states.

The Patent Publication illustrates the probability of a user, whether he's a middle person or isn't. This categorises the user by the number of devices he's logged in, his highest education qualification etc.

Valentine's Day: Let tech help you decide your love this year

By using some skilled tips on making your social profile more interesting, you could be lucky enough to get a date

DC CORRESPONDENT

Valentine's Day 2018 is just around the corner. While most out there have someone to spend the day and life with, there are quite a number of people who still have the thought, 'I still have to find my date.' Don't worry! Unlike before, the social media platform is out there for all to catch some fish in this ocean. Therefore, this Valentine's Day, you can use some skilled tips on making your profile more interesting.

Sync Instagram account

Syncing your Instagram account ensures that the person gets to know a bit more of what you are, adding up the chances of securing the right kind of date. Tinder banks on this a lot too!

Make the 1st move

We are in 2018, if you genuinely like the person, make the 1st move. Chances of finding the desired date is much more when you take the 1st move rather than waiting for someone to make

it. Use Happn, a dating platform, to say 'hi' to the profile you are attracted by, it is a good way to break the ice.

Appealing profile picture

It's needless to say in today's world of ever-changing social media filters we surely cannot ignore the fact that profile pictures play a crucial part. The profile picture should be genuine and surely speak about your personality that will actually help you get closer to that someone special.

Keep Bio exciting

The Bio section is as important as your profile picture. If say your profile picture is your boarding pass to getting your ideal partner, then your bio



PHOTO: PIXABAY

plays the role of a ticket in helping you get a match. Research shows that the chances of your profile being taken seriously after crossing paths with someone you would like to date increases through these two sections being filled in appropriately.

Set your preferences aptly

The profiles of only those who fit your preferences (i.e. age and gender) appear on your timeline when you cross the paths. It means your profile meets their preferences as well. Maximise

your chances of finding that perfect person through setting this up on your profile.

1st impression is the last

Once it's a 'Crush,' make sure you don't share too much information in 1st go. Keep it simple and also don't be too pushy.

Share your interests

Get to know each other through conversations in the apps. Talk more about your likes and dislikes. Be honest while conversing, being truthful will help you in the long run.

Say it via voice message

Apps like Happn feature sending audio clips along with the usual messages you can send, these can record up

to one minute. This gives users an original way of getting to know each other through more personal, instantaneous and meaningful exchanges.

Find each other

Once again, apps such as Happn also provide you with a feature to let others know that you are up for sharing an activity in the next four hours. The options in this feature includes Go for a walk, catch a movie, get a drink, go for a run, go for a walk, grab a bite and a few more. If your match too is interested in this activity, it's a Crush — you will then be able to eventually meet to share the activity.

BUDGET AFTERMATH

LTCG, US jobs batter bulls on Dalal Street

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, FEB. 5

The domestic equity markets fell for the fifth consecutive day amidst a rout in global stocks after a better than expected wage growth data released in the US over the weekend stoked fears about sooner than expected rate hike by the US Federal Reserve. In the domestic market, both the Nifty and Sensex opened the day with deep cut, down 1.5 per cent tracking a major sell-off in US markets, which posted their biggest single day fall since the BREXIT vote.

The Nifty closed the day at 10,666.55 losing 94 points or 0.87 per cent while the Sensex closed the day at 34,757.16, down 309.59 or 0.88 per cent. The positive data signalling a growth in the India's services sector also failed to cheer up the mood as investors continue to fret over the reintroduction of long-term capital gain (LTCG) tax on equity market investments.

"Investor sentiment showed no signs of improvement after the announcement of a 10 per cent tax on long-term capital gains accrued from equity investments. Globally as well, the sentiment seemed subdued as signs of strength in the US economy triggered fears of a sooner-than-expected rate hike by the US Federal Reserve. Data released by the US Labour Department over the weekend indicated that US non-farm payrolls surged by 200,000 in January 2018 after rising by 160,000 in December 2017," said Karthikraj Lakshmanan, senior fund manager, equities, BNP Paribas Mutual Fund.

- Market jitters spread across the world after the US stock market had its worst day in two years on Friday, fueled by worries about inflation and rising Treasury yields.
- Domestically, investor sentiment showed no signs of improvement after the announcement of a 10 per cent tax on long-term capital gains accrued from equity investments.



On Monday, the provisional data released by the stock exchanges showed that foreign portfolio investors (FPI) offloaded shares worth ₹1,263.57 crore.

India's volatility index (VIX), soared 5 per cent on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) signalling the underlying nervousness in the market.

"The recent rally in benchmark indices was mainly driven by heavyweights like, HDFC Bank, HDFC Ltd, L&T, ICICI Bank and Reliance Industries. All these counters have started correcting and the way their short term charts are shaped up, we do not expect any relief soon in the market. Hence, we continue to remain cautious and expect the Nifty to slide towards 10,597-10,500 in days to come," said Sameet Chavan, chief technical and derivative analyst at Angel Broking.

SELLOFF

"The US share market is long overdue a decent correction. This now appears to be unfolding and may have further to go as higher inflation, a slightly more aggressive Fed and higher bond yields are factored in."

— SHANE OLIVER
Head of investment strategy at AMP Capital



DON'T MISUSE TAX LAWS: CBDT TO FIRMS

New Delhi, Feb. 5: CBDT chairman Sushil Chandra on Monday asked Indian companies to refrain from misusing provisions of laws to evade taxes, saying the effective tax rate for big companies is already 26 per cent on account of various exemptions.

He said the industry should act more responsibly than the salaried class in paying taxes and help build a tax-compliant society. "I want to drive home that point very clearly before the industry that you should be more tax compliant, automatically rates will come down. We are ready to move with you for making the society tax-compliant."

The industry has got much more responsibility than salary earning person," he said while addressing the CII post-Budget meet.

In 2018-19 Budget, finance minister Arun Jaitley proposed to lower corporate tax rate to 25 per cent for businesses with turnover of up to ₹250 crore.

Over the last three years, the Centre has announced reduction of taxes for various categories of corporates and currently only 7,000 corporates still in the 30 per cent slab.

He said had the Centre cut tax rates for all corporates to 25 per cent, the cost to the exchequer would have been ₹60,000 crore. — PTI

No 25% tax for big firms soon, hints Jaitley

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 5

Finance minister Arun Jaitley on Monday told big industrial houses that the government will reduce corporate tax rate for them to the promised 25 per cent only after all the exemptions given to the industry have ended.

Mr Jaitley also said the states are not in favour of including petrol and diesel into GST at the moment, ruling out any immediate levy of the new indirect

tax on these petroleum products. "So far the mood of states (most of the states) is not in favour of including it (in GST) at the moment. But I am sure as the GST experience moves on, I think, natural gas, real estate—these are areas which are to be brought in and then probably at some stage we will keep trying for petrol, diesel and potable alcohol," he said.

Mr Jaitley said that he had in 2015 announced to cut corporate tax rate to 25 per cent, from 30 per cent, in four years with

■ The finance minister said it would not be proper to end exemptions midway... So, reduction in the corporate tax rate to 25 per cent will arise when all the exemptions end

the condition that all exemptions would have to go.

The finance minister said at post-budget meeting organised by industry chamber Ficci that

it would not be proper to end exemptions midway as some industries may have been set up based on them. "Therefore, the opportunity to reduce the corporate tax rate to 25 per cent will arise when all the exemptions end in the due course," he said.

The finance minister said that next year buoyancy in GST collections as well as indirect taxes gave him confidence that it would be easier to meet the fiscal deficit target of 3.3 per cent set for 2018-19.

Singapore telco invests ₹2,650cr in Airtel

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 5

Singapore-based telecom operator Singtel will invest ₹2,649 crore in Bharti Telecom, raising its stake in the promoter company of Bharti Airtel by 1.7 per cent.

With this investment, Singtel's total stake (along with its affiliates) in Bharti Telecom will increase to 48.90 per cent. Singtel currently holds 47.17 per cent stake in Bharti Telecom. This will lead to an increase of

Singtel economic interest in Bharti Airtel by 0.9 percentage points to 39.5 per cent.

The Mittal family's Bharti Enterprises continues to hold over 50 per cent stake in Bharti Telecom, which owns 50.1 per cent stake in Bharti Airtel at the end of 2017.

"While there are currently headwinds in India, we take a long-term view of our investment in Airtel which continues to be a strong market leader in a region with rapidly increasing smartphone

■ This will lead to an increase of Singtel economic interest in Bharti Airtel by 0.9 percentage points to 39.5 per cent. The Mittal family holds 50.1 per cent stake in Airtel

penetration and mobile data adoption," Arthur Lang, CEO International at Singtel, said in a statement.

The funds raised will be

used towards debt reduction. As on December 31, 2017, the company's consolidated net debt stood at ₹91,714 crore higher than ₹91,480 crore in the previous quarter.

Bharti Airtel shares rose by over four per cent on Monday after the announcement. "The fresh round of investment highlights the confidence of Singtel in Airtel, and the increased attractiveness of the Indian telecoms sector following the recent consolidation," said Deven Khanna, MD, Bharti

Telecom. Bharti Airtel had over 394 million customers across its operations at the end of December 2017. The company is currently has operations in 16 countries across Asia and Africa.

Singtel has assembled a portfolio of stakes in regional mobile firms outside its small home market, and overseas businesses now account for 75 per cent of its earnings.

The investment comes within 23 months of Singtel's participation in the rights issue.

RISKS TILTED TO HIGHER DEFICIT: GS

New Delhi, Feb. 5: The budgeted fiscal deficit is in line with expectations but there are some risks of slippage in financial year 2018-19, unless economic activities formalise at a rapid pace, says a Goldman Sachs report.

It said the revenue targets are on the optimistic side, particularly on recently introduced GST tax revenue growth.

"We estimate a 0.2 per cent upside risk to the fiscal deficit in 2018-19, unless economic activities formalise at a rapid pace over the coming year to generate the necessary buoyancy in revenues," Goldman Sachs said in a research note.

Lower indirect tax revenue collections may outweigh any upside risks from higher nominal GDP growth, non-tax revenue and direct tax collection, it said. — PTI

MOODY'S SEES NO IMPACT ON FISCAL DEFICIT

New Delhi, Feb. 5: The Budget 2018-19 strikes a balance between fiscal prudence and growth, and a "slight" slippage in fiscal deficit has no material impact on overall economic strength.

The government has revised its 2018-19 fiscal deficit projections to 3.3 per cent of GDP and for the current fiscal to 3.5 per cent of GDP against original targets of 3 per cent and 3.2 per cent.

"The revised fiscal consolidation path is modestly shallower than the previous roadmap, but does not fundamentally alter India's fiscal strength," says William Foster, Vice-President, Moody's. — PTI

India, China to curb bitcoins

New Delhi/Beijing, Feb. 5: India is planning steps to ensure cryptocurrencies are illegal within its payments system, while at the same time appointing a regulator to oversee unregulated exchanges that trade in "crypto assets," a finance ministry official said on Monday.

A panel set by the government to look into issues relating to cryptocurrencies is expected to submit its report in the current fiscal year, ending on March 31, S.C. Garg, economic affairs secretary, a news channel.

"The government will take steps to make it illegal as a payment system," he said at a post-budget event telecast by the news channel, adding the trading of "crypto assets" at the unregulated exchanges would be regulated.

The government does not consider cryptocurrencies legal tender and will take all measures to eliminate use of crypto assets in financing illegitimate activities or as part of payment system, finance minister Arun Jaitley told parliament while presenting his annual budget last week.

Meanwhile, China plans to stamp out all remaining cryptocurrency trading in the country by blocking access to over-

■ The value of bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies have plunged amid fears of a crackdown in Asia and concerns that many currencies' rapid rise in value last year could reflect an bubble.

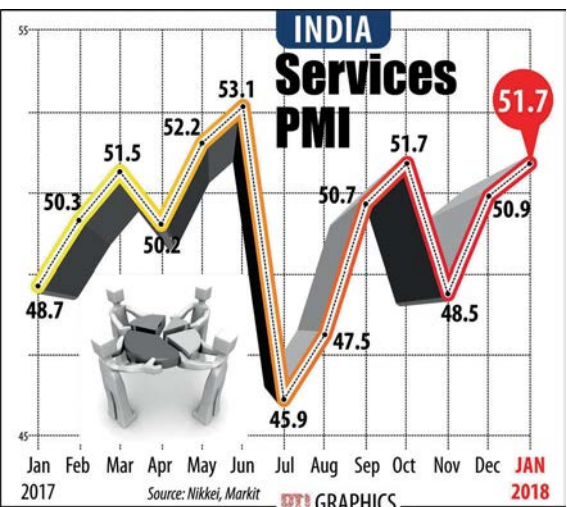
■ On Monday, the price of bitcoin fell to ₹7,950, two months after breaking through the \$20,000-mark.

seas-based websites and removing related applications from app stores.

The moves were outlined in a report *Sunday by Financial News*, a publication under the People's Bank of China, which said the aim was to snuff out the "dying cinders" of cryptocurrency trading and initial coin offerings "which are glowing once more".

Faced with Chinese citizens who continue to trade cryptocurrency on platforms operated beyond the country's reach, or take part in initial coin offerings, authorities will "ratchet up oversight in a sustained manner", the report said.

— Reuters, AFP



TVS BLUETOOTH-ENABLED SCOOTER DEBUTS IN CHENNAI

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, FEB. 5

TVS Motor Company has come up with its bluetooth-enabled Scooter TVS NTORQ 125 Monday in Chennai.

TVS SmartXconnect, the Bluetooth-enabled technology is paired to NTORQ mobile App (an android app only). The model is equipped with 110x80x12 wide, tubeless tyres along with telescopic suspension and the least turning radius to ease every kind of travel.

Having design of a stealth aircraft, the fresh launch has embodied sharp and aggressive style with fully digital speedometer and LED tail lamps designed for the dynamic youngsters. "TVS NTORQ 125 is a one-of-its-kind offering, designed to meet the desires of the youthful customers", said the President and CEO of TVS Motor Company K. N. Radhakrishnan, at the launch. The scooter is attractively priced at ₹ 58,750, in New Delhi.



K. N. Radhakrishnan, at the launch

MSP HIKE IS GOOD, EXECUTION IS KEY



PARTHAPRATIM PAL

Agriculture has not been doing well. In the latest Economic Survey, it has been pointed out that the estimated growth rate of agriculture is only 2.1 per cent for the year 2017-18. Agriculture is the biggest source of livelihood and employment in this country. As it was expected, the government did focus on rural and agriculture sector in this budget.

Agriculture is a state subject in India and the role of the Central government is limited. Given this constraint, this year's budget has put significant focus on the rural sector. In a major move, finance minister Arun Jaitley has

increased the Minimum support Price (MSP) to 1.5 times the cost of production of the eligible crops. This is a good move but its effectiveness will only be maximised if procurements are made in an unbiased and comprehensive manner. Mr Jaitley proposed setting up supporting institutions to make farmers aware about possible price movements in the agricultural markets. This is a good move and can help farmers cope with high price volatilities associated with the farm sector.

There are also a host of initiatives launched to improve marketability of agricultural products. There are plans of

creating Graamen Agricultural Markets by upgrading village haats and improve connectivity among rural markets. While these plans sound good on paper, the effectiveness of these schemes will depend on how well they are implemented. But marketing of crops only through APMCs has been a major hindrance for small farmers. This initiative may allow them to directly market their products.

The government also proposes to launch schemes to improve horticulture, organic farming, bamboo and medicinal plants. These are welcome steps. The Northeastern part of India can significantly benefit from such initiatives.

There are also a number of initiatives announced for food processing sector and the government has also announced plans for setting up food parks.

The level of processing in India for agricultural goods is abysmally low and there is an urgent need to improve it. Improved availability of processing facilities will help increase shelf life for agricultural goods and may lead to better price realisation by farmers. The government expects that availability of better processing and increase in number of food parks will allow India to increase its exports of agricultural goods.

The plan of the government is to push agricultural exports to \$100 billion from the present level of \$30 billion. However, it will not be easy as the global market is very standard-driven and Indian agri exports quite often have failed to meet international standards.

Among other initiatives, the government has extended use of Kisan credit cards to fishery and animal husbandry sector. There has been an increase in the allocation for farm credit and there are proposals to change the capital structure of Food Corporation of India.

(The writer is a professor of economics, IIM Calcutta)



Former Australia fast bowler Doug Bollinger has announced his retirement from all cricket aged 36.

I don't think we played them particularly well, and that's where our downfall was

— Aiden Markram
SA's stand-in skipper says the struggle against Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav did them in



SHORT TAKES

BCCI likely to shift HQ to Bengaluru

New Delhi: The BCCI might shift its headquarters from the iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai to Bengaluru once the National Cricket Academy (NCA) takes shape in the next couple of years. The BCCI has now got its own land — a huge 40 acre plot in the outskirts of the Garden City where a state of the art NCA will be built. Many in the top brass feel that it is an ideal scenario to shift the headquarters from its rented premises in Mumbai as the new facility will also have five-star lodging facility. It is also learnt that COA is open to the idea. —PTI



India women thrash Proteas

Kimberley: India produced a clinical all-round performance to thrash hosts South Africa by 88 runs in the first one-day of the ICC women's Championship at Diamond Oval here on Monday. Opener Smriti Mandhana (84 off 98) scored a strokeful fifty while pace duo of Jhulan Goswami (4/24) and Shikha Pandey (3/23) shared seven wickets between them to emerge as the architects of India's victory. Electing to bat, left-handed batswoman Mandhana hit eight boundaries and a six in her 98-ball innings and shared a 99-run stand with skipper Mithali Raj (45) to help India post 213 for seven in their allotted 50 overs. Chasing 214 for a win, South Africa failed to stitch partnerships and kept losing wickets at regular intervals. Skipper D van Niekerk top-scored for South Africa with a 41. Pandey rocked the hosts early by removing opener Lizelle Lee (3), wicket-keeper Trisha Chetty (5) and Mignon du Preez (0) to leave them at 23/3 in 9.2 overs. Spinner Poonam Yadav (2/22) then accounted for Laura Wolvaardt (21). — PTI

Brief score: India 213/7 in 50 overs (S. Mandhana 84, M. Kapp 2/26) bt South Africa 125 in 43.2 overs (D. van Niekerk 41, Jhulan Goswami 4/24).

NOW ASHWIN IN JUMBO PACK

■ The India spinner talks about his new weapon, leg-break, and its Kumble connection

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR | DC
CHENNAI, FEB. 5

As R. Ashwin began his load-up before rolling his wrist over for a spell of leg-breaks, the resemblance of Anil Kumble was striking. Ashwin who has been trying to add wrist spin to his armoury unleashed his new weapon against Gujarat in the Vijay Hazare one-day tournament in the eerie surroundings of Pachaiyappa's College. He took two wickets.

"That's how I bowled. That's what I have tried and sharpened out," said Ashwin of his wrist spin run-up similar to that of former India coach Kumble.

"I have also looked up actions of various people. I have also tried Paul Strang's (former Zimbabwe leggie). I just try to incorporate what I can add to

my bowling. It's been a tough journey and more game time in the middle would give a lot of confidence," added Ashwin.

Leg-break part of IPL plan

I'm not looking at it as an evolution. I have been practising (wrist spin) for some time. This is part of my plan going into the IPL. I'm trying to build my armoury. I used to bowl good leg-breaks with my off-spin action when I was playing league cricket in Chennai. Over a period of time, in search to get my stock ball right, I obviously had to cut out a lot of those things. I

had possessed a lot more variations. I don't really settle for anything. I never had the fear (affecting off-spin). My career has been such that people have always said that I tried a lot. And when I didn't try a lot is when I have lost my place in the side. I don't have any qualms about people's opinions. But I should not feel that I didn't try. I don't know whether people have the courage to try but I certainly do.

Wrist spin has novelty factor

People do feel that wrist spinners have the extra bit due to their googlies and leg spin. This game is about adaptability. When T20 came, people thought there was no space for spinners. Then finger spinners

dominated for 10 years. Now wrist spinners are doing well. It is about how well one can adapt and how well one can keep moving on.

Not going to fret over limited-overs return

I can only do my part. And I'm focusing only on that. I don't think I am at a phase of my career where I am going to really fret much and look forward to something. Genuinely speaking, if I am good enough, I will play. But I always believe that I'm very good enough to play as a bowler in any team. That's my self-confidence, but I will try to strengthen my ammunition for people to see.

Will give my best if asked to lead in IPL

As of now, nothing has been spoken about regarding captaincy. I have done well for TN in the past as skipper. I haven't led TN in the T20 format. I'm some-

one who will not let things run away. If at all given an opportunity, I will try to give my best.

Disappointed to part ways with CSK

I was a tad disappointed. I owned that space around Chepauk. The kind of roaring and cheering I received whenever I came to bowl would always reverberate in my ears. Days at CSK gave me momentum going into my international career. But, I can't really complain (playing for Kings XI). It will feel lovely to wear Punjab colours and enter Chepauk! I will again get a chance to showcase my skills in front of my home crowd. That's all that matters to me. To play against CSK will probably motivate me more.

Ready for another County stint

In all likelihood, I will be going for a few county games. After the IPL, the

Kohli is someone who goes for a win, come what may. He doesn't have a negative bone in his body. He never thinks about situations to save the match.

— R. ASHWIN

number of county games between June and July is fewer — only three or four. That will be a good practice ahead of the England tour: If I go, I will be going to Worcester again.

Kohli doesn't have a negative bone in his body

Kohli is someone who goes for a win, come what may. He doesn't have a negative bone in his body. He is always talking about a win and never thinks about situations to save the match. That gives a lot of clarity to most of the people in the team. The body language of him is driven from his psyche. It gives an amazing amount of intensity to the team. This is the first big overseas series for Kohli as captain. He is still

young as skipper. It's unfair to try to split the stats (based on region). It looks like some people are always searching for negativity. He is already on par with some of the greatest captains. It's best that we give credit to him when it's due.

Performance in SA gives impetus for England trip

I personally feel the South Africa Test series was very close. At Cape Town and Centurion, we were in the game till the last ball. If we had won the toss, it could have made a massive difference. In Johannesburg, we really showed a lot of guts and deserved to win. It gives us a lot of impetus going into the England series.

Shankar, Kaushik hit tons as TN register 76-run win over Gujarat

Chennai, Feb. 5: Tamil Nadu rode on centuries by captain Vijay Shankar and M. Kaushik Gandhi to post a 76-run win over Gujarat in the opening match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy Group 'C' league here on Monday.

The home side posted 311 for 8 in 50 overs thanks to the 219-run partnership between Shankar (100) and Gandhi (127) and held off a late challenge by Bhargav Merai (101) to restrict Gujarat to 235 all out in 45.1 overs. Test stars Murali Vijay and R. Ashwin had mixed fortunes with the former being dismissed cheaply while the off-spinner returned figures of two for 38.

Sent in to bat by Gujarat captain Priyank Panchal, the home side lost Test star Murali Vijay early, when he was caught behind by Dhruv Raval off Chintan Gaja for 11. Opener Gandhi and one-drop batsman B Aparajith (16) put on 31 runs before the latter was caught by H P Patel off

medium-pacer Bhargav Merai for 16. Gandhi, who survived a few chances, made the most of

it and played some good shots all-round the wicket. All-rounder Shankar, coming off a good run of scores in the local games, played confidently and slammed some e boundaries and two big sixes. However, a flurry of wickets towards the end meant Tamil Nadu finished with 311.



Vijay Shankar (front) and Kaushik Gandhi during their 219-run stand. — E.K. Sanjay

In reply, Gujarat saw opener S B Gohil fall in the first over to comeback man Aswin Crist. Panchal was the only one to offer resistance as the team slumped to 124 for 6 in the 25th over.

Merai, however, played a defiant knock, which included some beautiful drives and also hit a huge six off Washington Sundar and brought up his ton in 94 balls.

Aswin Crist took three wickets while Ashwin ended Gujarat's resistance by trapping Ishwar

Chaudhary lbw. Meanwhile, Surya Kumar Yadav blasted 11 fours and seven sixes in a 85-ball unbeaten 134 while Jay Bista hit 90 to shine in Mumbai's 74-run victory over Madhya Pradesh.

BRIEF SCORES

Tamil Nadu 311/8 in 50 overs (M. Kaushik Gandhi 127, Vijay Shankar 100, N. Jagadeesan 27, Chintan Gaja 3/61) bt Gujarat 235 in 45.1 overs (Priyank Panchal 42, Bhargav Merai 101, A. Aswin Crist 3/44, R. Ashwin 2/38, MS

Washington Sundar 2/35). Mumbai 332/5 in 50 overs (Akshil Herwadkar 49, Jay Bista 90, Surya Kumar Yadav 134*) bt Madhya Pradesh 258 in 46.1 overs (Naman Ojha 35, Anshul Tripathi 67, Shams Mulani 4/62, Dhruvil Matkar 3/50). Team Rajasthan 229/6 in 50 overs (Salman Khan 58, Chetan Bist 82*, B. Ayyappa 3/57) lost to Andhra 235/4 in 45 overs (Ashwin Hebbbar 33, KS Bharat 38, G Hanuma Vihari 49, B. Sumanth 71*).

VIJAY HAZARE

Unmukt braves broken jaw, slams ton to help Delhi win

Bilaspur (HP), Feb. 5: Opener Unmukt Chand did not let a broken jaw stand in the way as he slammed a sublime century and powered Delhi to a 55-run victory over Uttar Pradesh in the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Monday.

Chand was dropped from the semifinal and final of the Ranji Trophy after a poor run of form, but regained his confidence with a half-century in the title clash of the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament, which his team won. Sent in to bat after UP won the toss, Delhi rode on Chand's 116 off 125 balls to notch up a competitive 307 for six in the allotted 50 overs.

A former U-19 World Cup winning captain, Chand was injured in the nets, just before the start of the match. But he showed courage and belted 12 boundaries and three sixes during his stay in the middle. Chand's opening partner, Hiten Dalal, was the



Unmukt Chand

next best scorer with 57 off 64 balls, hitting eight fours.

The two added 107 runs for the first wicket, laying a solid foundation for Delhi to make a big total. Dhruv Shorey and Nitish Rana contributed 31 each, while Rishabh Pant smashed a brisk 18-ball 28 with the help of three fours and two sixes.

For Uttar Pradesh, middle-order batsman Umang Sharma scored a fine 102 off 104, but his effort went in vain.

SELECT BRIEF SCORES

Delhi 307/6 in 50 overs (Unmukt Chand 116, Hiten Dalal 57; Kartik Tyagi 2/50, Ankitt Rajpoot 2/61) bt Uttar Pradesh 252 in 45.3 overs (Umang Sharma 102, Akshdeep Nath 54, Kulwant Khejroliya 4/34, Pradeep Sangwan 3/28). Mumbai 332/5 in 50 overs (Akshil Herwadkar 49, Jay Bista 90, Surya Kumar Yadav 134*) bt Madhya Pradesh 258 in 46.1 overs (Naman Ojha 35, Anshul Tripathi 67, Shams Mulani 4/62, Dhruvil Matkar 3/50). Team Rajasthan 229/6 in 50 overs (Salman Khan 58, Chetan Bist 82*, B Ayyappa 3/57) lost to Andhra 235/4 in 45 overs (Ashwin Hebbbar 33, K S Bharat 38, G Hanuma Vihari 49, B. Sumanth 71*). Hyderabad 329/5 in 50 overs (P. Reddy 127, K. Sundar 56, A. Bhandari 47) bt Services 201 in 40.4 overs (Rahul Singh 64, H. Sethi 38, Mohammed Siraj 5/45).

SC SEEKS BCCI RESPONSE ON SREESANTH PLEA

New Delhi, Feb. 5: The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from BCCI on controversial cricketer S Sreesanth's plea challenging a Kerala High Court verdict restoring the life ban imposed on him by the apex cricket body in the wake of the 2013 IPL spot-fixing scandal.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra asked the Board of Control for Cricket in India and the two members of the committee, which had recommended life ban on Sreesanth, to file their responses within four weeks.

Senior advocate Salman Khurshid, representing the cricketer, told the bench that the life ban was extremely harsh penalty and moreover, the cricketer has not been playing for last five years which was more than enough.

Senior advocate Parag Tripathi, appearing for the BCCI, accepted the notice on behalf of the cricket body.

— PTI

Champs return to hero's welcome

KABEER KHAN | DC
MUMBAI, FEB. 5

Whether it is Shubhman Gill's resounding semi-final century or Majot Karla's ton in the final, the Indian colts have left a mark in the U-19 World Cup with their swash-buckling performance. They certainly carried forward the confidence from New Zealand to India as they addressed a swarm of reporters here with coach Rahul Dravid after arriving from the Antipodes.

The tournament certainly threw up a bunch of heroes who pulverised opponents into submission. Rarely has cricket witnessed such a flawless show from one team at an ICC event.

David called the triumph as a major victory on a personal level. "The real satisfaction for me has been the process that has been followed over the last 14-16 months. I think just the whole preparation and planning that has gone into developing under-19 players, and not necessarily players in this World Cup, is a good process that we've put in place," said the former Indian skipper.



India U-19 team pose at the reception hosted by the BCCI in Mumbai.

— Rajesh Jadhav

Now the uphill task for these young guns will begin and Dravid is no stranger to it. "The challenge and the hard work really start from here; we had a couple of conversations about it. When we were there they showed a rerun of the 2012 final and I started checking upon a few things. It is interesting; the result of that match is India beat Australia but six years down the line only one of those boys has played for

India while 5-6 of them went on to play for Australia," he said.

Prithvi Shaw took charge of the team last year when the side travelled to England for a five-match ODI series in which they handed a whitewash to the hosts. He has now led the team to another unbeaten trip to New Zealand for a more famous trophy. "We have brought the World Cup back and everyone including the support staff have worked

hard and the results show," said the Mumbai lad.

Kamlesh Nagarkoti and Shivam Mavi were as lethal in the tournament as the duo of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis. They attracted huge bids from the Indian Premier League franchises. The plan was very simple for the pair.

One had to focus on the wickets and the other was in charge of checking the run flow.



Gary Woodland birdied three of the last four holes of regulation then beat Chez Reavie with a par at the first playoff hole to win the Phoenix Open golf

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Games

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We cannot afford any slip-ups with Napoli having an extraordinary championship. It was important to win so we could break away from the chasing pack.



SHORT TAKES

Philadelphia win Super Bowl

Minneapolis: The Philadelphia Eagles scored an upset 41-33 victory over the New England Patriots to win their first ever Super Bowl — American Football League's championship game — here on Sunday after a late Tom Brady fumble ended the quarterback's tilt at history. A magnificent performance from the Eagles' back-up quarterback Nick Foles — who threw three touchdowns and nearly 400 yards — had helped Philadelphia into a 38-33 lead with just over two minutes left in the NFL championship game at Minneapolis' US Bank Stadium. The stage was set for Brady, 40, to mount one of his famous comeback drives as the clock ticked down and the Patriots took possession. But superb pressure from Eagles defensive end Brandon Graham forced Brady to fumble, turning the ball over to Philadelphia deep in New England territory. Brady, who had been bidding to become the oldest quarterback to win the Super Bowl and the first man to win six Lombardi Trophies, sat on the turf in disbelief as the Eagles erupted in celebration. — *AFP*

Froome season under scanner

London: Chris Froome will begin his 2018 season at this month's Ruta del Sol, Team Sky announced on Monday, with the British rider "confident" there will be progress on a probe into an adverse doping test. Froome will be part of Team Sky's line-up for the five-day stage race in Andalusia, southern Spain, which runs from February 14 to 18. Froome will line up in Spain after spending the early part of the year training in South Africa. "I have put in a hard training block in January," said Froome.

CITY CLIPS

PSBB champions

Brief scores of the Agarwal Vidyalaya Inter-school cricket tournament: Muslim School 121/8 in 20 overs (Sanjay 25) lost to PSBB Millennium 122/1 in 18.2 overs (Ramnarayanan 71*). MoM: Ramnarayanan. **Special awards:** MoS: Pranavkumar (PSBB Millennium). **Best bowler:** Elavarasan .M (Muslim School). **Best batsman:** Kesav Balaji (Chinmaya Vidyalaya). **Best wicket-keeper:** Mohammed Ashif G.R. (Padma Sarangapani). **Best fielder:** S. Subash (Bakthavaachalam).

Prasanna sparkles

Brief scores of the TNCA Inter-district U-16 tournament: SF: Kancheepuram 215 in 85.3 overs (Adittya Varadharajan 48, R. Yash 78, R. Prasanna Venkatesh 5/59) vs Madurai 13 for no loss in 3 overs. Tiruchirappalli 76 in 56.1 overs (P. Shiv Naren 47) vs Coimbatore 92/1 in 34 overs (T. Vijay Abimanyu 35, B. Sachin 35*).

Daniel dazzles

Brief scores of the TNCA-Vellore DCA league: Metro CC 85 in 19.3 overs (V. Dhanasekar 30, B. Yokeshwarar 4/7) tied with Sunshine CC 85 in 27 overs (E. Karthick 30, P. Vijayarajan 5/31). United CC 168 in 34 Overs (M. Rajesh 72, S. Daniel 5/32) bt Metro CC 108 in 19.4 overs (V. Dhanasekar 38, C. Kishore Kumar 4/23, K. Gunasekar 3/20). 2nd division: Power Star CC 34 in 10 overs (A. Yokeswaran 5/14, M.Karmugilan 4/20) lost to Vinoth Sports Academy 36 for no loss in 3 overs (D. Manigandan 32*). Gudiyatham Cricket Academy 191 in 24 overs (R. Karmega Prabhu 52, A. Rajesh 33, L. Sathish 46, J. Rajesh 3/35) bt Saba Group CC 121/7 in 25 Overs (G. Gowtham 71*, T. Raghu 4/34). **3rd division:** MS Cricket Club 209/9 in 30 overs (K. Senthil Kumar 53, P. Ramesh Babu 47, K. Saravanakumar 6/42) bt Power Origins CC 152 /5 in 30 Overs (M.D.Sheran Basha 28, M. Santhosh Kumar 30).

THRILLER IN BOSTON

Celtics win by one point after Al's last second shot

Los Angeles, Feb. 5: Al Horford rattled in a fade-away jumper as the buzzer sounded to lift the Boston Celtics to a 97-96 NBA win over the Portland Trail Blazers on Sunday. "It's a shot I work on a lot and it felt good when it left my hands," Horford said. Horford, Semi Ojeleye and Jayson Tatum scored consecutive three-pointers late in the fourth quarter as the Celtics took the lead with an 11-0 scoring run after trailing 85-79. Horford said teammate Jaylen Brown was supposed to take the last shot but he was covered. "That shot epitomizes the work he puts in," Brown said. "He embraces those opportunities and steps up to the challenge." Horford finished with 22 points and 10 rebounds for Boston, who won their fourth game in a row. Tatum had 17 points and Brown scored 16 for the Celtics in front of a crowd of 18,600 at the Boston Garden arena. Terry Rozier, starting in place of injured guard Kyrie Irving, had 11 points on five-of-18 shooting.

Damian Lillard scored the final eight points for the Blazers, including a three-point play with seven seconds left to give them the lead 96-95. Lillard finished with 21 points shooting six-of-19 from the field. C.J. McCollum led the Blazers with 22 points. "They executed well down the stretch, made some tough shots," McCollum said. "Credit them for battling back and then down the stretch they seemed to match every basket," he added. Celtics coach Brad Stevens said they were



Charlotte Hornets guard Jeremy Lamb (left) drives to the basket as Dragan Bender of Phoenix Sun tries to defend during the second half of their NBA game in Phoenix on Sunday. The Hornets won 115-110. — *AP*

going to celebrate the win by watching the New England Patriots battle the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl 52. "Wanted to end the game so we could go watch the Super Bowl," Stevens said. Elsewhere, the Milwaukee Bucks breezed past the Brooklyn Nets 109-94 despite missing star Giannis Antetokounmpo who left the game in the final quarter with a sore right ankle. Eric Bledsoe scored 28 points, John Henson had 19 points and 18 rebounds for the Bucks who stretched their winning

streak over the Nets to 10 games. **Scare for Giannis** Milwaukee led by as many as 28 points at one stage and were in control when Antetokounmpo twisted his ankle and headed to the bench. He finished with 16 points. Antetokounmpo said the injury was not a serious one and he wanted to come back in the game but the coaching staff wouldn't allow it. Khris Middleton also had 16 points for the Bucks, who improved to 6-1 since firing coach Jason Kidd. DeMarre Carroll

and Caris LeVert each scored 15 for the Nets, who lost for the sixth time in seven games. In Toronto, Delon Wright had 15 points off the bench as the Toronto Raptors beat the Memphis Grizzlies 101-86. The Raptors have won five straight at home against the Grizzlies. Toronto improved to a league-best 21-4 on home court this season and 7-3 in its past 10 games. Grizzlies started their NBA life out as the expansion Vancouver Grizzlies where they played for six seasons. In 2001 they moved to Memphis, leav-

ing the Raptors as the lone Canadian team in the league. Marc Gasol scored 20 points and Andrew Harrison had 16 for the Grizzlies, who have lost six straight on the road. In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook scored 36 points but the mistake-prone Oklahoma City Thunder couldn't overcome some untimely turnovers in a 104-108 defeat to the Los Angeles Lakers. The Thunder have now lost four straight after going on an eight-game win streak in January. — *AFP*

Sex abuse trauma units at Olympics

Pyeongchang Feb. 5: As American sport reels from a horrifying sexual abuse scandal, athletes competing in this month's Pyeongchang Olympics will have access to trauma units for the first time in Games history.

The Winter Olympics open in South Korea on Friday after long-time USA Gymnastics team doctor Larry Nassar was sentenced to up to 175 years in prison for molesting young athletes in a case that sparked universal shock and anger. Four counselling centres have been set up by local organisers to offer medical and psychological care to athletes subjected to harassment or abuse.

Legal advice will also be on hand to help victims file a police report, according to Games officials. "We have to protect our athletes and help them avoid and manage any situation," said International Olympic Committee (IOC) safeguarding officer Susan Greining.

"It's important to raise awareness. If you learn about something you feel more in control," said the IOC medical officer. Greining took up her role as safeguarding officer at the 2016 Rio Olympics, when the IOC first created the post, and recommended future local organisers establish their own framework for dealing with sexual harassment. American luge slider Summer Britcher applauded the decision to set up support units at the Games, crediting the more than 150 victims who gave testimony against the disgraced Nassar.

"Everything that happened with the gymnastics team is really horrible," she said. "But I think maybe it's a bit of a silver lining that those women having the strength and bravery to come forward has resulted in having these avenues available for women in the future," she added. — *AFP*

NEW STAR

Kamalraj back, not back home

T.N. RAGHU
CHENNAI, FEB. 5

K. Kamalraj hasn't been home for three months. Even after winning a silver medal in the triple jump at the Asian indoor athletic championship in Tehran on Saturday, he will not be able to meet his family to savour his success. The 19-year-old will go to Indonesia to take part in an Asian Games test event from a camp in Trivandrum. It's his life and he knows it.

Whether he goes to Samalapuram in the near future or not, the village in Tirupur district has got a hero now. Overcoming the fear of taking part in an international meet for the first time was his first challenge. Not only did he conquer stage fright; he went a step further by reaching the podium with an effort of 16.23 metres, which was only three centimetres short of the golden jump.

"I will never forget the dizzying feeling that gripped me when I wore the Indian blazer for the first time. I had goose bumps. I was full of nerves until I made the first jump. The thought that I was a junior among seniors was always on my mind initially," said Kamal, who comes from a poor background like many athletes in Tamil Nadu.

But Kamal didn't harbour hopes of winning a medal when he boarded the flight to the Iranian capital for



K. Kamalraj

his first foreign trip. "I only wanted to give my best because it was my maiden international meet. I was thrilled when I went on to finish second. Then I rued the fact that I missed out on the gold so narrowly," he said, laughing. Kamal credited his coach Md. Nizamuddin for helping him come of age in the national championship. "I had never won anything in school. Only after coming under Mr Nizam's wing, did I start to finish among medallists. I owe this Asian medal to him," he added.

The new kid on the block is aware of the sacrifices he has to make to keep winning. Determination is as important as hunger and hard work in athletics.



Napoli's Italian striker Lorenzo Insigne celebrates scoring a goal during the Italian league match against Benevento Calcio at the Ciro Vigorito Stadium in Benevento on Sunday. Napoli won 2-0. — *AFP*

FRENCH LEAGUE

Monaco rally to overcome Lyon

Paris, Feb. 5: Rony Lopes struck a dramatic late winner as Monaco recovered from two goals down and overcame the first-half dismissal of Keita Balde to stun Lyon 3-2 in the French football league on Sunday. Mariano Diaz scored a 12th-minute opener for Lyon at the Stade Louis II as his deflected shot from distance deceived Monaco goalkeeper Danijel Subasic, who hobbled off injured after tangling with the net.

Lyon doubled their lead before the half-hour as Bertrand Traore, making his first league start since early November, volleyed in at the near post past replacement keeper Seydou Sy.

But Senegal international Balde held off a succession of defenders before rifling in a low angled drive to halve the deficit just three minutes later.

Radamel Falcao then equalised on 36 minutes when he converted the rebound after seeing his penalty awarded for a foul on Kamil Glik, saved initially by Anthony Lopes. It took the Colombian to 17 league goals for the season — trailing only Paris

Saint-Germain duo Edinson Cavani (21) and Neymar (18).

But Monaco were reduced to 10 men on the stroke of half-time as Balde, booked moments earlier for kicking away the ball in frustration, was shown a second yellow card for a nasty foul on Ferland Mendy.

The hosts then lost captain Falcao to a thigh injury 10 minutes into the second half, but it was his replacement Stevan Jovetic who set up Portugal international Lopes for the winning goal a minute from time.

Lyon conceded possession cheaply inside their own half, and the Montenegrin striker rolled the ball into the path of Lopes who drilled into the far corner to complete a sensational turnaround and help avenge last month's 3-2 loss in the French Cup.

The result bumped Monaco up to third, one point behind Marseille, while Lyon finished the weekend a point outside the Champions League places in fourth after dropping from second. — *AFP*

Bristling Bach gives it back

Pyeongchang (South Korea), Feb. 5: Fifteen Russians whose life bans for doping were lifted last week have been barred from the Pyeongchang Winter Games, the International Olympic Committee said on Monday, as Russia's drugs conspiracy continued to reverberate just days from the opening ceremony. The decision was taken after a special panel "unanimously recommended that the IOC not extend an invitation to the Olympic Winter Games Pyeongchang 2018 to the 15 individuals," a statement said. "The OAR IG (Olympic Athlete from Russia Implementation Group) confirmed that no additional invitations will be extended to these 15 individuals," the IOC said. The 15 were among a group of 28 Russians who had been banned for life from the Olympics for doping, but whose suspensions were overturned at the Court of Arbitration for Sport on Thursday. They included 13 athletes and two ex-athletes

COLD CONDITIONS COULD KEEP MANY OFF OPENER

Pyeongchang Feb. 5: Freezing weather at the Winter Olympics threatens to force some athletes and staff to pull out of Friday's opening ceremony as Pyeongchang shivers in temperatures plunging to minus 20 degrees Celsius. The Pyeongchang Games are shaping up to be one of the coldest Olympics ever. Italy are among the countries fearing the dangerous effects of the big chill and are advising their competitors to ensure they are moving at all times during the

traditional curtainraiser. Doctors with the Italian team have ordered coaches and staff with heart problems or diabetes to keep in the warm instead — stadium for the opening ceremony is open to elements with no roof. New Zealand are taking no chances and Peter Wardell, their chef de mission, admitted on Monday: "We are a little trepidatious about the opening ceremony, which is going to be at night, and how we are all going to keep warm if it's going to be these sorts of temperatures." — *AFP*

the independent sports tribunal. Bach kept up his attack on Monday, when he told reporters: "This CAS decision is extremely disappointing and needs a very careful review. We will clearly review it. If we can appeal it we will appeal it." The World Anti-Doping Agency has also expressed "serious concern" over the decision by CAS, which said it had insufficient evidence to leave the bans in place. And Canadian luge athlete Sam Edney, who was robbed of a 2014 Olympic medal when the bans were overturned, called the uncertainty "a nightmare for clean athletes". Australia's John Coates, president of the court's governing body, said the tribunal would "thoroughly examine" the concerns raised by Bach and would issue details of the decisions as soon as possible. "Athletes are entitled to have confidence in judicial processes at all levels, more particularly before the CAS," Coates said in a statement. — *AFP*

now working as support staff. The other members of the 28 have either retired or are unavailable for undisclosed reasons. The IOC has barred Russia from the Pyeongchang Olympics, which open on Friday, over a widespread doping

conspiracy. But 169 Russians who have passed strict anti-doping protocols will compete under a neutral flag. The announcement comes after the body's president, Thomas Bach, slammed the CAS decision and called for reforms to



Golfer Shubhankar Sharma's Maybank Championship win lifts him to 72nd place, surpasses Anirban Lahiri as highest rated Indian in official world rankings

Harry Kane is one of the best strikers. He can miss a penalty or a chance, but the personality to score 100 Premier League goals is because you have big, big balls.

— Mauricio Pochettino Tottenham manager hails Kane's bravery after he shrugged off missing a penalty to net his 100th EPL goal from a second spot-kick

SHORT TAKES

Chhattisgarh drub MHA in nationals

New Delhi: Chhattisgarh, Him Academy and Gangpur-Odisha posted emphatic wins on day five of the eighth Hockey India senior women's national championship in Ranchi on Monday. Chhattisgarh registered a comfortable 5-1 win over Mumbai Hockey Association Ltd in a Pool A match. Soni Gaund hit a double while Arti Kashyap, Balvinder Kaur Mehra and Mahima's netted one apiece. Later, Him Academy beat Bhopal 4-0 in Pool B as Vandana Rani struck a hat-trick. Gangpur-Odisha later spanked Rajasthan 7-4 in a Pool C encounter. Rojita Kujur starred with three goals, Elin Lakra and Rinki Kujur scores two goals each and Philicia Toppo netted once for the winners. Rajasthan's goals came from Prakash Choudhary (2), Nivedita Chakravarty and Meena Kumari.

Paddler Thakkar settles for silver

New Delhi: Manav Thakkar settled for silver in the boys' final of the 2018 ITTF world junior circuit finals in Luxembourg, according to information received here. Thakkar, seeded third, went down to top seed Kanak Jha of the US 3-4 (11-9, 3-11, 11-9, 6-11, 3-11, 11-9, 6-11) in a see-saw final. "He converted some good points and got benefited from negatives that I shouldn't have offered," said Thakkar. In the semi-finals, Thakkar accounted for Egypt's Yousef Abdel-Aziz 4-1 (11-9, 7-11, 14-12, 11-9, 11-6). While the US paddler defeated sixth seed Russian Ivonin Denis 11-3, 12-10, 11-9, 11-6. "I felt very good, it was a good match. My opponent played really very well," said Thakkar.

HARYANA STAY ATOP MEDALS TALLY IN KISG

New Delhi: Haryana stayed on top despite not adding to their overnight tally of 20 gold medals while Delhi narrowed the gap to just two at the first Khelo India School games here on Monday. Late on Sunday, Delhi won the boys' kabaddi gold and on Monday, added the boys volleyball title to move to 18 medals, while Maharashtra were third with 16 gold and Karnataka had 15. West Bengal opened their gold medal tally with two successes on Monday. The girls won the volleyball gold and in the evening they added one more through weightlifter Shrabani Das in the girls 48 kg category. Of the four weight categories in weightlifting, Assam (Sidhanta Gogoi in boys 56 kg), Odisha (Bhaktaram Desti in boys 50kg), Bengal and Manipur (Konsam Ormila Devi, girls 44 kg) shared the honours. Ormila Devi, a Commonwealth Youth Championship winner, lifted a combined total of 137 kg. —PTI

PREMIER LEAGUE

Kane denies diving after penalty row

London, Feb. 5: Tottenham striker Harry Kane has hit back at Virgil van Dijk's claim he dived to win a penalty in Sunday's dramatic 2-2 Premier League draw at Anfield.

Liverpool's record signing said the England international went down too easily under pressure from goalkeeper Loris Karius for the first of two Spurs penalties.

"I think it is a dive. You see him (Kane) diving clearly and no one is talking about it but I think it is a dive," said van Dijk, who joined Liverpool from Southampton last month for £75 million.

Kane's first spot-kick was saved but he converted a second deep into added time to salvage a point and reach 100 Premier League goals.

"He (Karius) has dived, he got in the way and I'm a player. I'm not going to jump out of the way because it's football," said Kane, denying van Dijk's accusation. "I definitely felt contact and I went down."

Kane, like manager Mauricio Pochettino, praised the officials for having the strength of character to award two controversial penalties at Liverpool's home ground.

Assistant referee Ed Smart flagged for a van Dijk foul on Erik Lamela for the second penalty award after match official Jon Moss had waved play on.

RESULTS

Crystal Palace (Milivojevic 55-pen)	1
Newcastle (Diame 22)	1
Liverpool (Salah 3, 90+1)	2
Tottenham (Wanyama 80, Kane 90+5-pen)	2



Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane scores against Liverpool in their EPL match at Anfield in Liverpool on Sunday. The match ended 2-2.

— AFP

"I thought the linesman showed amazing character to give (the second penalty) because a lot happened for the first one about the linesman so to give that penalty was massive — and it was a penalty," added Kane.

The debate surrounding the first penalty centred on whether Liverpool defender Dejan Lovren had touched the ball on its way through to Kane, who

would otherwise have been offside as he clashed with Karius. Kane's late strike brought up a century of Premier League goals in his 141st match.

Only Alan Shearer (124) reached the landmark more quickly and the Tottenham striker now has his sights set on the next 100, with Shearer's all-time record of 260 still some way off.

"That has to be the aim —

and hopefully quicker than I got to 100," said the 24-year-old. "It is nice, I am going to enjoy the moment but let's see how many I can get this year and go from there."

Liverpool are third in the Premier League, five points behind second-placed Manchester United, while Spurs are fifth, one point behind Chelsea, who travel to play Watford on Monday.

NEWCASTLE HELD

Newcastle remain mired in the battle for survival after Crystal Palace salvaged a 1-1 draw.

Rafael Benitez's side took a first half lead through Mohamed Diame, but a Luka Milivojevic penalty soon after the interval forced Newcastle to settle for a point.

The Magpies are only one point above the relegation zone in 16th place after

failing to win for a fourth consecutive league match.

Palace, without a win in their last three league games, are two points ahead of Newcastle.

The visitors had gone in front in the 22nd minute.

Kenedy swung a low delivery into the penalty area that Milivojevic missed and when Martin Kelly failed to track Diame's run, the Senegal midfielder was free to finish from close-range.

But Newcastle defender

Ciaran Clark conceded a 55th minute penalty when he bundled over Christian Benteke after the striker leaped to reach Wilfried Zaha's cross.

Milivojevic sent his spot-kick towards the bottom corner and although Karl Darlow got a hand to the ball, he was unable to prevent it reaching the back of the net. — AFP

ISL SEASON 4

Play-off race gathers pace

Chennaiyin face Bengaluru in a crucial match today

T.N. RAGHU CHENNAI, FEB. 5

South is north as far as the fourth season of the Indian Super League is concerned with Bengaluru FC and Chennaiyin FC occupying the first and second place on the table respectively. The two top teams will meet at the Nehru Stadium here on Tuesday and the winners of the spicy South Indian derby will have the tailwind in the play-off race.

Bengaluru, who have played a match more than Chennaiyin, are seeking their fourth victory on the trot. Having gone down to Chennaiyin 1-2 in the home fixture, Bengaluru will be keen to turn the tables on the hosts here on Tuesday because a win will give them a seven-point cushion at the top. For Bengaluru coach Albert Roca, talks about being the best in the league are premature as nothing yet has been decided. "I feel it would be better to open up on the subject after the tournament," he said.

As things stand now, Bengaluru and Chennaiyin appear on course to reach the play-offs but both of them know they aren't yet there numerically. Chennaiyin coach John Gregory put it succinctly on Monday. "For me the season is starting tomorrow. We had just been jostling for positions so far. We need three wins on the final lap to secure a place in the play-offs. It's not going to be easy because we will be playing five matches in 17 days," he said.

Incidentally, Bengaluru and Chennaiyin are meeting in the crucial match after seeing off Atletico de Kolkata away in the previous round. While Roca's team have only two days' rest after their Kolkata sojourn, Chennai haven't



LIVE on TV Chennaiyin vs BFC on STAR Sports 2, 2HD @ 8 PM

Jeje Lalpekhlua (left) has been Chennaiyin FC's lynchpin in attack.

played a match since their trip to the West Bengal capital on January 25. Predictably, Roca bemoaned the lack of rest for his team and Gregory elaborated on the advantages of playing back-to-back to matches. Either way, neutral fans are in for a treat as both teams will be sure to be gunning for three points on Tuesday.

Bengaluru, one of the two new teams in the ISL this season, have taken to the competition like a hippopotamus (Doesn't duck need some rest?) to water. A settled squad with the same coach from last season's I-League and a professional approach since inception has fired them to the top of the table. It must be said that Bengaluru have also succeeded in cultivating a committed fan base, the

lifeblood of football clubs. Apart from the number of goals (14) both teams have conceded, what unites Bengaluru and Chennaiyin is also the fine form of their leading Indian forward. Bengaluru captain Sunil Chhetri, also the national team's skipper, leads the charge for Indian football with eight goals, one more than Jeje Lalpekhlua of Chennaiyin. The two forwards have proved that Indians do know how to stick the ball in the net. And, their battle for supremacy will be a subplot in what promises to be an electrifying match on Tuesday.

Roca paid rich tribute to Chhetri, saying the striker "could be a legend." "Any coach or team would love to have him. He is professional and humble. I'm

lucky to have him in my side," he added. At BFC, Chhetri has a potent strike partner in Miku of Venezuela who has scored 10 goals.

Jeje, unlike Chhetri, shoulders the scoring responsibility for Chennai all alone. Gregory isn't worried that his team don't have a double act up

front like Bengaluru. "The goals Jeje has scored are testament to his ability. But shouldering the onus all alone can be a big burden. That's why I'm happy everybody is contributing to our tally," he added. Chennaiyin should also be glad that their opponents wouldn't know who to mark apart from Jeje.

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE							
TEAM	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS	
Bengaluru	13	9	0	4	11	27	
Chennaiyin	12	7	2	3	5	23	
FC Pune City	13	7	1	5	10	22	
Mumbai City	14	6	4	4	2	22	
Kerala	14	5	5	4	-1	20	
FC Goa	12	6	2	4	6	20	
Mumbai City	13	5	2	6	1	17	
ATK	13	3	3	7	-9	12	
NorthEast United	12	3	2	7	-9	11	
Delhi Dynamos	12	2	1	9	-16	7	

Barcelona coach cherishes draw

Madrid, Feb. 5: Gerard Pique salvaged a 1-1 draw for La Liga leaders Barcelona at city rivals Espanyol on Sunday, keeping their bid for an unbeaten campaign on track, while Atletico Madrid edged out Valencia to cut the gap at the top to nine points.

Ernesto Valverde's men were in danger of falling to their first league defeat of the season when Gerard Moreno nodded the hosts ahead midway through the second half, but centre-back Pique met a Lionel Messi corner in the 82nd minute to snatch a point.

Barcelona are now nine points clear at the top of the table from Atletico Madrid, who beat third-placed Valencia 1-0 at the Wanda Metropolitano.

The Catalan derby was played in pouring rain

and Valverde slammed the "dangerous" pitch.

"We give a lot of value to this draw, because it was hard to get because of this scenario and because it's a derby and we didn't want to lose," the Barcelona coach said.

The five-time European champions also set a new club record of 22 matches unbeaten to start a league season on Sunday, and are still in the hunt for a La Liga, Copa del Rey and Champions League treble. "We are still up there (top of the table). The conditions for them and for us were not the best, but it was an entertaining game," Barca captain Andres Iniesta said.

They were far from at their fluent best against a stubborn Espanyol whose point drags them eight clear of the relegation zone.

CHURCHILL AIM FOR AIZAWL FC SCALP

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 5

I-LEAGUE

Confident Churchill Brothers will look to continue their winning run against defending champions Aizawl FC in a Hero I-League match in Vasco on Tuesday riding on confidence from a win over title aspirants Minerva Punjab in their last match.

Churchill ended Minerva's unbeaten run to rise to seventh place with 13 points from 11 matches. And a 2-0 win on Tuesday will take the hosts above Aizawl, who are three points above them.

"The win against Minerva have put the boys in right frame of mind after we lost against Neroca," said Churchill assistant coach Alfred Fernandes. "From here on, we are looking to win all our

remaining matches which will not only get us out of relegation zone but also help us finish at a decent position," he said.

Fernandes said Churchill now looked a different side following inclusion of some foreign players.

"We have collected 13 points from the last six matches we have played. Aizawl are coming into this match without a win in their last three matches. "They will come hard at us to collect full points and we are prepared for the challenge," he said.

LIVE on TV Churchill vs Aizawl on STAR Sports 2, 2HD @ 5.30 PM

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